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PEERAGES FOR LIFE.

THE question of life peerages is difficult and delicate. Whether evaded or not at present, it is sure to re-appear. We therefore shall endeavour to put both sides of the question before the public, in a popular manner.

The debate in the Lords, on the 7th inst., was a splendid exhibition, and one of which this age has a right to be proud. Lord Lyndhurst was delightfully luminous, as he always is, Lord Granville was pleasant and flowing, Lord Derby vigorous and explicit. No wonder that the House decided by an important majority to refer the question to a Committee of Privileges. Let us have nothing done in a hurry. The House of Lords has a right to be jealous of its character, for if its character is to be changed, it ceases to be the House of Lords. Were a proposal made to effect a change in the House of Commons, we should have excitement enough. The "Committee of Privileges" is a form by which the Peers protect their own dignity; and we apprehend that they are perfectly in the right in having this matter investigated before accepting the new peer. In fact, they virtually deny that he is a peer,—for they assert by their vote, and through some of their speakers, that the hereditary character of a peerage constitutes its essence,—that a peer for life is no peer at all.

The case therefore, when the vote was come to, stood thus:—The House of Lords doubted the propriety of this exercise of the prerogative. The House of Lords was in a dispute with the Crown. To be sure the Crown, we are told, means the Ministry. But the Ministry must have consulted the Crown; and we ought to presume the Crown's concurrence, or else openly say we do not believe the Crown is strong enough to have an opinion, or to act on it, in the affair. This would be exceedingly disloyal. The Crown's prerogative is as sacred as any right of the House of Peers, or as the humblest individual's franchise. Where are the new Tories on this occasion? the men who used to tell us that the Crown had sunk into a dogeship? Are they not going to back up the Crown when it asserts one of the most undoubted of its rights? We presume that they throw all the blame on the Ministry. They must either suppose the Crown actually a cypher, or else they are striving to keep it so.

Lord Lyndhurst does not deny that the power is legal; but he

argues that it has been so long disused, that it would not be "constitutional" to exercise it now. The fact is, that our constitution is undefined in every point. It does not exist on paper. But we must be careful how we lay down the law, as to what is in force and what is not in force, of the most ancient of the powers of the kingdom. Both Commons and Lords act on precedents far more ancient than 1688; why not the Crown, likewise? Nothing happened in 1688 to nullify every power previously existent. Now, who can doubt that the Crown *did* create peerages for life in the cases which Lyndhurst himself quoted? We confess we cannot. Lyndhurst justly put his case on the grounds of the utter "inexpediency of the proceeding." And on that ground it will be argued by the public. The lawyers meanwhile may try to prove that the law is against it, and so declare illegal the previous and ancient exercises of it. And this the country waits for them to do.

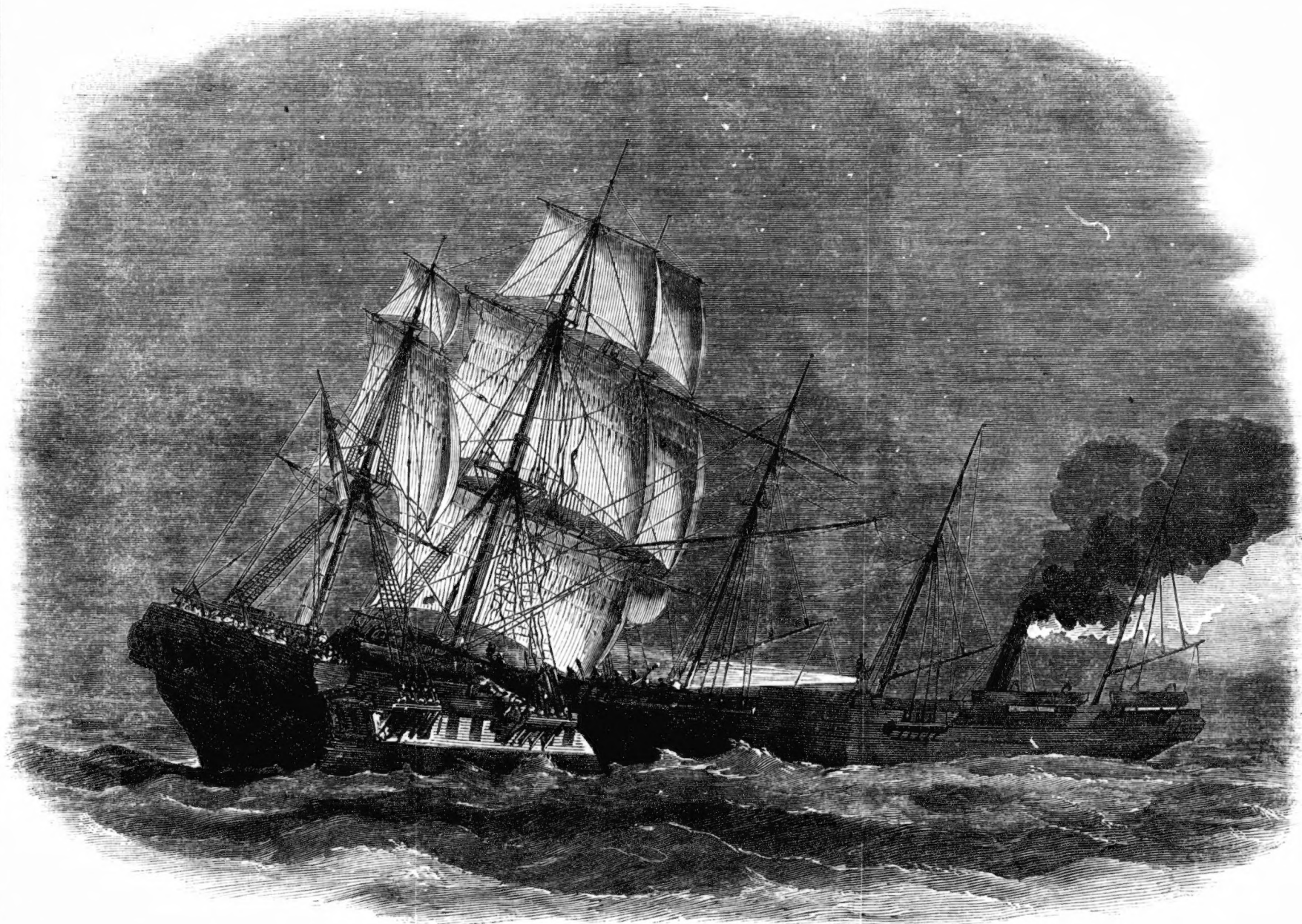
Meanwhile, how far is it a change, or how far is change itself to be dreaded in the matter? Lord Derby says it is an "organic change"—and this is a very important point.

The House of Lords has changed as much as any other institution of the land. We made some remarks in illustration of this the other day. It consisted originally of the feudal barons,—some barons by tenure, some by writ. Nothing can be more certain than that the old Plantagenets used to send a man a summons to Parliament, one time, and not summon him again. Everywhere, from Dagdale to Sir Harris Nicolas, you find this fact stated. It was only by degrees that the body became hereditary. It was natural and necessary that it should become so: it could not otherwise have been a permanent institution with a character of its own. The hereditary character of the House has for centuries been its most prominent feature. Its personal character has changed—with the changes of all England—according to the fluctuations of property, and to the development of new powers. Few *baronial* houses now exist. The best families in it are ancient gentry, who rose as the barons fell; the rest are the descendants of lawyers, politicians, moneyed men, soldiers, and sailors. Of these the lawyers are the most prominent and the most powerful. We cannot help laughing here at the eagerness with which the lawyers of our day oppose these life peerages. They fear that too large

a share of them would fall to their men, instead of hereditary ones. The country, we fancy, thinks a large fortune and a life peerage quite pay enough for a lawyer; and does not like to be saddled with the progeny of a tough reasoner, who perhaps has married his cook. We feel sure that too many lawyers are not welcome in this country as governors: and the good side of the proposed change in our eyes is, that it would give us a useful peer, and spare us a stupid family. Certain it is, that if the House of Lords is to remain Court of Appeal, it must have a sufficient supply of lawyers: by giving all these hereditary rank, do we not pay rather too high a price? Or, would the change be so great as to induce us for fear of it to put up with the nuisance, and trust to the chance of their becoming extinct?

Lord Lyndhurst argues that we should have two bodies of peers: one hereditary, another holding life peerages: and that the creation of these last at any time would spoil the action of the House, and make it subservient to the Ministry. This would be a great evil; is it a probable event? We have seen no Ministry in our time likely to be anxious to destroy the aristocracy; and it would be a very large creation indeed, that could overcome the natural force of ancient rank and large property. In fact, a Minister able to overcome this, by such means, or likely to wish to do so, would be fatal to the House without the power of creating life peerages. He must be a man sufficiently backed by Crown, people, and a section of the peers, to be fatal to the Lords in any case. We think a Lord Derby, with his four centuries of peerages, far too great a potentate to be disturbed by a life peer. If his personal dignity is in question, why that is hurt, as things are, by his holding an earldom in common with the descendants of tradesmen, jobbers, and such founders of houses as Disraeli loves to describe. From the thoroughly aristocratic point of view, life peerages are decidedly defensible. It was this feature which probably made Sir Harris Nicolas suggest them. Sir Harris Nicolas was a profound genealogist—ininitely more versed in these matters (for example) than Lord Campbell—whose books are notoriously full of blunders, besides being disgraced by plagiarisms.

The dangers of such peerages being *common*, must not, however, be passed over. These dangers would be very great, not to the Lords alone, but to the people. Let us suppose that we had an unscrupulous



THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE MANGERTON AND THE JOSEPHINE WILLIS, OFF FOLKESTONE, ON FEBRUARY 3, 1856.

sovereign: such a man would soon find unscrupulous ministers; and were life peerages matters of every-day familiarity at the time, why the greatest disturbances would infallibly be produced; since a daring adventurer of the old stamp could be flung into the Lords at any moment. And we must not forget that the comparative quiet of the Lords, ought not to blind us to its substantial utility as a reserved force in the constitution. As an independent landed body, out of the reach of king or people, we should soon find its value if a king proved a tyrant, or the people were deluded into violence. But make these life peerages common, and its character would be changed. We ought to have further explanations of the use which is proposed to be made of the power proposed; should that power be declared inherent in the Crown, which we do not doubt it will. The Crown has since the Revolution been so gradually reduced to a pageant, a pomp, and a show, that we do not at all regret to see its "prerogatives" once more talked about. This particular one at least has never been admitted to be defunct; and it is possible that combinations might arise when we should be glad to know that the monarch had powers in reserve. For English liberty is not so much in danger from despotism as from oligarchy: and oligarchy is hateful precisely in proportion as it is merely founded on money. Nothing would be easier than to go "the whole hog"—as some journals are going the whole donkey—on either side of this question. But that is not our way. We wish to look at it in all its lights. We do not want to see the House of Lords swamped but we do not want to see the Crown robbed. Agreeably to the British Constitution—this is a crisis when the people must help to arbitrate between the two. And when the Lords' Committee give us their complete "case"—it will be our (the people's) business to consider it fairly.

THE COLLISION IN THE CHANNEL.

In addition to the accounts contained in our last week's impression of this melancholy catastrophe, we give the following particulars, which, with the accompanying engraving, will enable the reader to form a tolerably correct idea of what actually took place. We are glad to find that an inquiry is to be opened, by direction of the Government, before Mr. Yardley, the police magistrate.

CORONER'S INQUEST, FOLKSTONE.

At the Coroner's inquest, which was held at Folkstone on Tuesday, last week, Kester Clayton, the chief officer of the *Josephine Willis*, was the first witness examined. He said:—

At eight P.M. on Sunday a light was reported ahead. I went forward, and saw it, and then returned to the poop. I watched the light then from the lee side of the poop. It was a white light. I soon afterwards saw the red light lower down, and shortly afterwards the green light, by which I knew that the vessel ahead was a steamer. I then put the helm a starboard. While standing on the poop, I kept her green light open. In about three minutes after I had put the helm a starboard, the steamer struck us just before the main rigging on the starboard side. She came bow upon us. She was a screw steamer. Just as the steamer was striking us, the captain of the *Josephine Willis* came on deck, and took the command, and I obeyed his orders. When we found the steamer was nearing us, two or three men forward, and I from the poop, hailed her as loud as we were able, but the steamer must have ported her helm, or I believe we should have gone clear of her. We all did the best we could to get the boats down, to endeavour to save the passengers. We had four boats. The starboard boat was stove in lowering, but some persons were taken in her to the steamer. The life boat was capable of taking forty persons in her, but there was no time to get them into her, as ten minutes after being struck the vessel heeled over to the port side.

By the Coroner: I think Mr. and Mrs. Ray were taken in the starboard boat. Most of the passengers had turned in. We had about sixty-six passengers, and a crew of forty.

Coroner: Did the steamer remain by the ship?—Witness: She backed astern out of the ship and went astern about half a mile. After the *Josephine Willis* had been on her beam ends, I got up into the rigging, and a boat came and took me off. Twenty-five altogether were taken on board the steamer—chiefly the crew. I know there were five passengers. One boat came from the steamer. The life-boat conveyed some passengers. Most of the passengers were below—they comprised men, women, and children.

By the jury: I kept the steamer's green light open, but when they ported they shut it out again, just before she struck us. (The witness appeared to be labouring from the effects of the sufferings he experienced on the wreck before taken off.)

John Sheen, a seaman on board the *Josephine Willis*, was next called. He said:—

When I first saw the white light it was right ahead. I reported it to the chief mate, who came forward. The second mate followed him in two or three minutes. I soon afterwards saw the green light, and then the red light, and I knew it then to be a steamer. She was approaching us rapidly, and our helm was put a starboard. When her helm was put a starboard the ship came up in the wind, and her sails began to shake. There were about 12 of us on the fore-castle, and we called out to the steamer as loud as we could. We did not see any person on the bridge or on the fore-castle of the steamer on the look-out.

Coroner: Do you know whether the steamer's engines were going when she struck you? Witness: I do not exactly, but I rather think they were. She was in us a minute or so before she backed astern out of the ship. The first person I saw on the steamer was a man who came on the fore-castle with a lantern. That was after we were struck. I can't tell how far the steamer was off when I first saw the light. I noticed it perhaps a quarter of an hour or 20 minutes before we were struck. I am confident I did not see any person on the fore-castle of the steamer on the look-out. We were hailing her two minutes, and there was ample time for her to have cleared us, if there had been any person on the look-out, and had heard our cries.

Coroner: What distance do you think you could see the man on the look-out on such a night? Witness: About three or four ship's lengths. It was starlight. After the steamboat came into the ship, all hands who were on the fore-castle went off to clear the starboard boats away. We put two female passengers, two male passengers, and some four or five boys into the boat, but she got stove in being lowered, and we removed the passengers into the port life-boat. There were three of the ship's company in the boat, and she was rowed to the steamer, which was about a mile and a half to the eastward of the ship. Ours was the first boat that reached the steamer. Our second mate, who was in the boat, said to the captain, "Are you going to render any assistance to the ship?" The captain replied, "Yes, I have got a boat alongside, with two hands in her." The mate said, "Two hands are no use; they could save no lives." The boat, however, went to the ship, and saved the chief mate, four or five passengers, the carpenter, and I think two of the ship's company. We all asked the captain of the steamer "if he was going back with the steamer;" but he did not do so, and still allowed her to drift up with the tide. She was not steaming. I did not go on board the steamer. When I asked the captain to go back, he said he must first lighten his vessel forward, and pump the ship. After we put the passengers on board from the life-boat, I heard an order given for her to go ahead, which she did slowly. The steamer did not come back. We asked him to put back several times, and he seemed annoyed at us, and used bad language. We were about an hour alongside the ship in the life-boat, and when a lugger came up, they told us to go back with them and save lives.

Coroner: But why stay so long with the steamer? Why did you not go back and endeavour to save more lives? Witness: Because the captain of the steamer told us not to go back until he could take his steamer with us. The steamer gave us a line, and towed us to the eastward away from the ship. We then saw a white light, which was on board a deal boat. The steamer then stopped, and sent up some rockets. Some men then came from the deal boat, and one of the hands went on board the steamer. They requested us to go to their large boat, and that she would tow us to their ship. The lugger was some distance off. We went to the lugger, and they then said that we were too big, and that they would not tow us there. I then hailed the steamboat. I heard a voice from the steamer, but I could not make out what it was. The four of us in the boat pulled towards the steamer for ten minutes, but we could not overtake her, and we therefore concluded she was under steam. She went away from us. We then pulled towards Folkstone lights. We could just see them. We got to the harbour about half-past 11.

Coroner: Did you go back to the wreck? Witness: We did not know where she was. We had gone away from her.

The inquiry was resumed at Folkstone, on Tuesday last, when the jury, after more than an hour's deliberation, returned the following verdict:—"We come to a unanimous conclusion that George Summers and others came by their deaths in consequence of a collision between the ship *Josephine Willis*

and the steamer *Mangerton*, owing to an error in judgment on the part of the chief officer of the ship, mistaking the light of the steamer for Dungeness Light, and boarding the helm. We also agree that if a proper look-out had been kept on board of the steamer, the collision might have been avoided. We feel it our duty also to state that there appear to have been a great want of humanity on the part of the crew of both ships, in not sending assistance to the passengers of the ship whilst they had it in their power to do so; and we believe that, if proper efforts had been made, many more lives would have been saved."

ANOTHER INVESTIGATION—VERDICT OF "MANSLAUGHTER."
Mr. R. J. Emmerson, the coroner for the Cinque Ports, instituted another and more searching examination into the loss of the *Josephine Willis*, at the Queen's Head Inn, Walmer Strand, where the bodies of Mrs. Sutton Davis, and two other women, were viewed. The proceedings occupied the whole of Friday and Saturday of last week.

George Sutton, boy, aged 14, who lost his parents, two sisters, and brother in the wreck, and was saved by clinging to the mizenmast-head after the ship had foundered, identified one of the bodies as that of his mother. He was in his berth on Sunday evening about 8 o'clock, when he was disturbed by water coming in on his head. He ran upon the poop and went up the rigging. Saw a steamer had come across the ship, her bows being over the hatchway. She got off very soon, and proceeded on her way. While the steamer was within hearing, there were loud cries for assistance from persons on board the *Josephine Willis*.

Frank Needs, steward of the *Josephine Willis*, who was also rescued from the mizenmast, said:—

About a quarter after eight o'clock, I was standing by the caddy door, under the poop awning. I heard a shout on deck, and immediately went up, followed by Captain Canney. Saw a large steamer approaching on the starboard side. In about two minutes or less she came right into us between the mainmast and the foremast. The steamer backed out almost immediately, and continued by us a very short time—five or ten minutes at the outside. She was at a considerable distance from us for an hour afterwards. The ship heeled over immediately the steamer backed. When I ran on deck I could distinguish a red and white light on the steamer. Heard Captain Canney order the hencoops and everything on deck to be thrown overboard.

Captain Richard Bouchier, of the *Mangerton* steamer, was called. He said:—

About 7-45 on Sunday evening I was proceeding up Channel, about six miles off Folkestone. From the time of passing Dungeness Point I had been with the chief and second mate on the bridge until three or four minutes before the collision took place. I went down in the cabin to look at the charts, and I heard the second mate say, "Port the helm," and "Hard a-port." I immediately ran on deck, and saw a vessel close on our port. I sung out, "Hard a-port, for God-sake, stop her," seeing a collision was inevitable. The engines were immediately stopped, and before they could be reversed the steamer had struck the vessel. I then ran forward on the fore-castle to see what damage she had sustained, and gave orders to get the boats ready and lowered. They were got ready, and one of them was sent to the assistance of the ship. In the meantime, I went down forward into the fore compartment, and found the whole of the port bow stove in to the water's edge. I got the bedding of the crew and the sails, and had them shoved into the holes, and came upon deck and got the cargo out from the fore compartment and rolled aft. I gave orders to have the pumps attended to, to keep the ship free of water, and blue lights to be burned and signals made by rockets. It was ten minutes before I backed out of the ship. We then turned ahead under the stern of the vessel, and remained there, and we could not stir the engines for two or three hours, as the water was rushing into the ship. We then found that we had twenty-three of the crew of the *Josephine Willis* on board, and nine of the passengers, forty of my own passengers, and twenty-five crew. I found the steamer settling down by the head, but did not know whether the fore bulkhead had been started or not by the shock. I got the engineer to put on the donkey pump, but it did not keep the ship free. On coming out of the engine-room, the D buzzer was reported alongside. I sent her off at once to the wreck in the direction I thought her to be. I took one hand out of her to run our ship on shore, as I supposed she was in a sinking state. I gave the steamer in charge of the boatman George Pearson. I had reason to suspect that the bulkhead of the fore compartment was damaged, as the pumps would not keep her free until the engine pumps were set to work. We could not use the engines and go ahead, because of her bow being stove in. After we had got the cargo out of the fore compartment, we were enabled to move the engines and go dead slow ahead. Then we began to use the engine pumps. It was three hours before we worked the engines. I had then no command of the ship; she drifted all the while from the wreck. I was apprehensive of my vessel sinking every moment. It is my certain opinion that had we used the engines sooner with any force, we should have forced the compartment in. We had three boats in the water—two quarter-boats and a life-boat. I know one went, but I can't say as to the others.

Coroner: Did you see any light previously to going below?—Witness: I saw the South Foreland Light—no other.

Coroner: But it was only three or four minutes after you went below that the collision took place. Whom did you leave in charge of the ship when you went below?—Witness: The second mate. Mr. Naughton was on the look-out on the fore-castle, and two hands were at the wheel.

Coroner: Did any of these men report the light ahead to you while you were in the cabin?—Witness: They did not.

Coroner: Did you notice the light on the *Josephine Willis*'s bowsprit when you struck?—Witness: I did not notice it.

By Mr. Towne: It is a general rule by act of Parliament that when vessels are approaching each other they should port the helm.

By Mr. Winkworth: Reversing the engines would work the pumps, but I don't think that I could have gone astern with safety. I could not let go my anchor. I have been six months in the service of this company. I have been acting-master of sailing vessels. I have not a copy of the Admiralty regulation or the Act of Parliament on board. I hold a Board of Trade certificate.

By the Coroner: Our ship had been steering east and by north half-north. The *Josephine Willis* was on our port bow when I first saw her, and, seeing her course, I directed the helm to be put hard a-port, as I saw a collision was inevitable. Scarcely 30 seconds elapsed from the time of my first seeing the *Josephine Willis* to the collision occurring. I believe there is a law, when vessels meet at sea—approaching each other end on—the steamer is to put her helm hard a-port, and show a distinguishing light, which is a red light, on the port side, but we must be governed by circumstances.

The evidence of other witnesses was then taken, after which the Coroner summed up, and left it to the jury to say whether or not the unfortunate occurrence resulted from any culpable neglect on the part of those who had charge of either of the ships.

The jury deliberated for more than an hour, and then returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Richard Bouchier, the captain of the *Mangerton* steamer.

The Coroner issued his warrant for the committal of the accused for trial at the ensuing Kent Assizes, but he had previously left the town.

TOUCHING NARRATIVE BY A SURVIVOR.

Mr. George Andrews, a young farmer, a native of Trenance, St. Austles, Cornwall, a chief cabin passenger, one of the seven who were taken off the top-mast heads some hours after the collision, furnishes some striking details of the catastrophe. In about ten minutes after the ship had been struck, she turned over on her beam-ends on the port side, and the passengers clung to the rigging. He had taken charge of a Miss Logan, a young lady 18 years of age, who, on the collision occurring, rushed out of her cabin, attired only in her night-dress. He took off his great-coat, and put it round her, and when the ship turned over he caught her round the waist, and got into the mizen rigging; and a passenger named Golding, who had a little child in his arms, was near him. In this position they remained upwards of an hour—the passengers who kept clinging to the rigging, shouting to the steamer to save them. About a quarter of an hour after the ship had gone over, Captain Canney, who was on the side of the wreck, was swept overboard by a sea which broke on the ship, and disappeared. Perceiving that she was fast sinking, he proposed to Golding to crawl along the mizen-mast, which was resting on the water, as the vessel in going down would be likely to right. The unfortunate fellow replied that he thought it would be better to remain where he was. Mr. Andrews, with Miss Logan in his arms, then made an effort to get along the mast. The poor girl, however, if not dead, was completely exhausted; and in getting her up the mast, he was several times nearly overcome himself. On reaching the cross-tree, a sea caught them both, took the girl from his arms, and she was swept away. He believed, however, that she had before expired. The sea even caused him to lose his hold, and it was only through a desperate effort that he succeeded in regaining his grasp. He saw poor Golding, and the child he was so anxious to save, swept into the deep. The hull of the ship then gradually went down, and he saw some 40 or 50 men, women, and children, struggling in the waves, screaming for aid. Their cries were heard a few minutes, and all was over. He then made his way up to the mizen mast-head, and a little boy, named Sutton, (whose parents, and brother and sister had perished), a passenger, and the chief steward, managed to hold on to the rigging of the yard near him. Three others got up to the maintopmast head, and one poor fellow lost his life in endeavouring to pass along the stay between the two masts. The water gradually rose up to their legs. They could see the steamer, and kept shouting for help. About half-past 11 o'clock, their cries were heard by a Deal lugger, which had been sent in the direction of the wreck, and, humbled and almost half dead, they were taken off by the boatman Pearson, whose conduct is spoken of in commendable terms. About ten minutes before they were rescued, a brig passed within 150 yards; she, however, took no notice of their shouts, and went on. Mr. Andrews expresses his belief that most of the passengers could have been saved by the ship's boats and the steamer, had they lain by.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Corps Legislatif will, according to the best information, be convoked for the 3rd of March, by which time, it is hoped, a positive announcement on the subject of peace may be made.

General Bosquet has, by an imperial decree, been raised to the dignity of a senator. Moreover, the Queen of Spain has named the Gallant General Grandee of Spain of the first class.

On Saturday last, 15 students and others, many of them highly distinguished in their academical career, were tried for the recent disturbance at M. Nisard's lecture. Of these, 14 were convicted. The sentences, however, were light. Two professors were sentenced to six months' imprisonment; but of the youths, the three who came off worst have only three months' imprisonment; four others are sentenced to one month; and the remainder escape with a fine of 100 fr.

SPAIN.

CARRERA, backed by the Carlist clubs of Paris and London, is trying to get up a new insurrection, but the other principal chiefs of the party are opposed to the enterprise. The civil and military authorities of Aragon have decided, that, from the tranquillity which prevailed, the state of siege might be removed without inconvenience.

Accounts from Madrid announce the commencement of a change in the Cabinet. M. Brail has left the Ministry of Finances, and M. Francisco Santa Cruz has taken the oath as his successor. Marshal O'Donnell, in order to be able to bring his quarrel with D. Orense to an issue, had sent in his resignation. The Queen had refused to accept it.

Orders had been given to sell the Crown property in the Basque Provinces.

AUSTRIA.

THE Emperor of Austria is reported to have declared, that henceforth no man in Austrian Italy shall be called to account for his political behaviour during 1848 and 1849. "It is my desire," said the Emperor, "that the events of those years should be buried in oblivion."

The "Gazette" of Vienna announces that the Empress Elizabeth is en route.

Prince Callimachi, the newly-appointed Turkish Minister at the Court of Vienna, is expected to arrive there towards the end of the month.

Austria continues disarming her frontiers nearest Russia. The reduction of the army is being effected without interruption; and at the market of Malzendorf a considerable number of artillery and cavalry horses have been sold.

RUSSIA.

THE CZAR ALEXANDER, if peace results from the congress, will proceed, it is believed, to Moscow for the ceremony of his coronation. Rumours are also prevalent, of a contemplated visit to Paris in the course of May next.

General Prince Gortschakoff has been appointed Commander-in-chief of the Armies of the West and Centre, and Imperial Lieutenant of the Kingdom of Poland.

The Czar has decreed that a year's pay shall be given to all the general and other officers of the army and navy, to the civil employes, and the medical and transport service, who took part in the defence of Sebastopol.

On Saturday evening, Count Orloff set out from St. Petersburg for Paris, to take part in the Peace Conferences.

DENMARK.

THE session of the Diet of Denmark Proper will terminate on the 20th of this month. That of the General Diet of the Danish Monarchy will open on the 1st of March.

A letter from Copenhagen states that in the second sitting of the conference on the Sound Dues, the Russian representative accepted in the name of his government the proposition made by Denmark to capitalise the dues for 36,000,000 rix dollars (120,000,000 fr.)

PERSIA.

ERZEROUH, Jan. 4.—The latest letters from Persia state, that Mr. Murray is on his way to Bagdad. The Shah had issued orders for all the Persian authorities to treat him with every possible civility on his route, but at the same time had written to him in a tone which makes reconciliation at present entirely impossible.

AMERICA.

THE steamer *America* arrived at Liverpool on Monday last, with advices from New York to the 29th ult., and from Boston to the 30th. The House of representatives was, at the latest date, still unorganised, no Speaker having been elected.

In the Senate, on the 28th ult., Mr. Cass brought forward the subject of the affairs of Central America, and in the course of his remarks used strong language denunciatory of the position assumed by the British Government relative to the protectorate in Central America; characterising its pretensions in setting up a king over the Mosquito Indians as mere mockery, under which England alone exercised weak sovereignty. This statement was corroborated by Mr. Clayton, who read extracts from documents to show that the British Vice-Consul was the real governor of Mosquito, and gave titles to land in his own name. Mr. Collamore gave his views relative to the construction of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and contended that there could be no possible pretext for the present assumption of England that the occupation she agreed not to exercise was only prospective, and had no reference to the occupation which she then held. He, however, thought the time for legislative action had not arrived, inasmuch as the President, in his annual message, expressed hopes that there might be an amicable adjustment between this Government and Great Britain. Mr. Seward obtained the floor, when the subject was postponed, and the Senate adjourned until the following Thursday.

The Hon. Mr. Dallas is reported to have accepted the post of Minister to England, *vice* Mr. Buchanan.

In Kentucky, a number of fugitive slaves having taken refuge in a house, the police officers proceeded to arrest them. The slaves fired and wounded several of the spectators. One slave woman, finding escape impossible, cut the throats of her children, killing one instantly, and severely wounding two others. Six of the fugitives were apprehended, but eight of another party are said to have escaped.

A resolution, declaring "any agitation of the slavery question unwise and unjust to a portion of the American people, and injurious to every section," had been adopted by a majority of one in the House of Representatives.

The War.

OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.

MORE ABOUT THE DOCKS.

CAMP BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, JAN. 28.—The destruction of the docks will, it is fully expected, be completed this week. Only one of them, the westernmost, still partly retains its original aspect; the others are mere chasms, partially filled with ruins.

THEIR POSITION AND ARRANGEMENT.

They extend nearly due north and south (a little to the east of north and west of south), and consist of three inner docks, a basin, and two outer docks, with a lock between them. The French undertook the destruction of the outer docks, the lock, and the northern half of the basin; the English that of the inner docks and the southern half of the basin. The lock, although capacious, was easier to destroy than a dock, its circumference being a plain stone wall, instead of heavy stone steps fit for a giant's staircase. The French have done their share of the work very effectually, and nothing more now remains for them to destroy. For various reasons, the English works were more gradual in their progress, but have not been less thoroughly carried out, and, if a non-professional, but highly-interested observer may express an opinion, they do great credit to the scientific skill of the engineers to whom they were intrusted.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE WORKS REQUIRED.

It is difficult for any one who has not seen these docks both before and since their destruction, fully to appreciate the magnitude of the operations and the force that must have been applied to root up and utterly overturn such massive constructions, such huge blocks of granite so firmly cemented, such mighty timbers, which lie snapped asunder like reeds or rent into huge splinters. A stroll about the environs of Sebastopol, and the sight of the enormous cannon-balls and fragments of monster shells that strew the ground in all directions, impress one with a respectful idea of the power of powder; but the respect is vastly increased by a view of the havoc it has played in such stupendous works as the docks—structures formed to last for ages, and to the duration of which no limit could be assigned. The difficulty of destruction was enhanced in the case of the docks allotted to the English, by the fact that these were in part hewn out of solid rock. The basin thus formed was lined with huge masses of stone, and between rock and stone earth was filled in. The engineers availed themselves of the soft intervals for their mines, and blew the walls and counterforts inwards, but the rock remains, marking in places the outline of the docks. The counterforts were of prodigious strength and thickness. Then there was a deep covered drain outside the docks, for the purpose of emptying them when desired, of which the engineers, of course, made use.

MODE OF OPERATIONS—MINES AND SHAFTS—AN EXPLOSION.

Greatly incommenced at first by the water that flowed down the ravine in their rear, they overcome this difficulty at no small expense of labour. Their mode of operating against the docks varied according to circumstances, but seems to have consisted in great measure of regular mines, with shaft and gallery. Two of these shafts are about thirty feet deep. They are situated one on each side of the western dock, and in one of them, which is at about fifty feet from its entrance (between it and the centre dock), an unfortunate accident occurred on the 26th. The engineers had blown up the eastern pier, or extremity of that side of the dock, to which a gate is attached—one of the jaws of the dock, which are closed by the gates; and this explosion seems to have been as complete in its effect as any that have taken place. The huge mass was lifted up and dislocated, and the enormous transverse beams, masses of black timber of incalculable strength, were torn from their fastenings, snapped in twain, and remained with their splintered ends resting against each other, in the shape of a house-roof. Below the pointed arch thus formed is a black chasm, and heaped around are piles of displaced stone and dusty ruins. Everything is removed and riven without being scattered; and this is the object at which our engineers have constantly aimed.

ACCIDENT CAUSED BY NOXIOUS GAS.

Of accidents occurring from explosions there have recently been none heard of except the one referred to above, and which was of a peculiar nature. The explosion by the dock-gate had taken place, and some Suppers were busy at the bottom of a shaft 40 or 50 feet off, when a noxious gas generated by the explosion entered the gallery, filtering through the intervening earth. The effect was gradual—one after another the men became giddy, and some of them insensible. With infinite alacrity and courage non-commissioned officers and soldiers descended the shaft, braving a danger which seemed the greater because its extent and nature were unknown, to succour their comrades, and as they got down they in turn were overpowered by the offensive gas. Major Nicholson and Lieutenant Graham also went down, and suffered in consequence. The former was insensible, when, supported by his men, he reached the top of the shaft, and it was some time before he recovered. To sum up the accident: one man perished, and seven or eight were seriously affected, but have since recovered. A man went down into the mine after the accident, holding in his mouth the extremity of a tube down which air was pumped to him, and he walked about with perfect impunity and collected the men's caps and things they had left behind. The man who died was a soldier of the 48th Regiment. Two surgeons were on the spot, and tried every means to recover him, but in vain.

AN IDEA OF THE WORK NECESSARY TO RE-CONSTRUCT THE DOCKS.

It may give some idea of the labour necessary to reconstruct these docks, to say that after clearing away the ponderous ruins it would be necessary to dig down some 20 feet below the original bottom—so much has the earth been disturbed by the successive explosions—to drive piles and use concrete, and form an entirely new foundation.

AN ARTILLERYMAN MURDERED BY A YOUNG SOLDIER.

Jan. 29.—It has seldom fallen to the lot of a newspaper to record a more brutal and cowardly outrage, than one committed a few days since by a young soldier of the —, upon an old wounded artilleryman. This young ruffian had but lately arrived out here, and it is said that he enlisted in England to avoid apprehension for robbery. A short time since he mutilated his own hand, in order that he might avoid the ordinary military duties. In the hospital to which he was sent was an artilleryman, who was severely wounded in the chest by a shell during the explosion of last November. He was slowly recovering, but occupied a special tent, in order that he might receive better attention, and the advantage of better air. The wounded man had, on one occasion, lent the ruffian a few shillings from a purse, which he generally kept under his pillow. It is supposed, however, that the artilleryman must, in getting at his money, have permitted his companion to see some of the gold pieces which it contained, and thus awakened his cupidity. The soldier, watching his opportunity when the attendants were away, and believing the artilleryman to be asleep, the heartless wretch took up a heavy bar of iron, and aimed a murderous blow at the sick man's head; he was not, however, asleep, but raising his arm to ward of the danger, received the full force of the blow, which broke the bone. The cries of the victim brought assistance, but not before a second blow had stunned the poor man. The villain was speedily captured, and is to be tried by court-martial, on the charge of murder, the poor sufferer, after enduring the greatest tortures, having died the following day.

TWO HUNDRED RUSSIANS MADE PRISONERS.

A letter from the French camp, dated January 29, says:—"On Tuesday last the Piedmontese had an affair of outpost with the Russians, and made 200 prisoners."

THE PEACE CONFERENCES.

THE FRANKFURT DIET.

A DESPATCH from Berlin states that the hope that Prussia will be admitted to the Paris Conferences has slightly revived. It is believed that Austria, since the signature of the first Protocol, has renewed the request that Prussia should be admitted. The Frankfurt Diet will not hasten forward the consideration of the Austrian propositions. The Diet will prefer to wait, so as to have some indication of the turn the Paris Conferences are likely to take. Meanwhile the approximation of Austria to the Western Powers is becoming closer.

THE SARDINIAN REPRESENTATIVE.

The Chevalier d'Azeglio having, on account of ill health, declined the office of Plenipotentiary to the Conferences, Sardinia will be represented by Count Cavour and the Marquis Villamarina.

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE AND THE SULTAN.

ACCORDING to letters from Constantinople, addressed to the French journals, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has been committing all sorts of odd things, nearly upsetting the Conferences on the rights of the Christian subjects of the Porte, and tricking the Grand Sultan into attending his fancy ball. The first feat is charged on his Lordship by reason of his insisting that it shall hereafter be legal for a Turk to embrace Christianity, and the point appears to have created a hitch. The Turkish ministers, to show their sense of his Lordship's pertinacity, determined not to go to his masked ball on the 31st. His Lordship was not to be so cheated. Without giving any notice of his intention, he therefore waited on the Sultan on the 30th, and requested the honour of his attendance, alleging as a precedent that the Emperor of the French had attended a ball given by Lord Cowley. The Sultan, taken unawares, gave his assent, and it is believed was duly present, on the evening of the 31st, with all his ministers,

THE FEARFUL GALE IN THE NORTH.

ACCOUNTS from Shields, dated Friday, Feb. 8, state that the effects of the gale on the previous day, were of the most disastrous kind to the shipping in the Tyne. It was at first computed that £10,000 would cover the damage done to the ships by being brought in collision during the gale; but from £15,000 to £20,000 will be nearer the mark. The storm was most fearful in Shields harbour, about three o'clock in the morning, and the spectacle presented by ships breaking loose from their moorings, and smashing and crashing into each other, is described as awful beyond description. It was high water about three o'clock in the morning, when the gale was at its height, and the Tyne presented the appearance of an inland sea rather than a commercial river. No small craft could live, and it was impossible to get steam-tugs to assist the vessels that were doing so great an amount of damage.

The injury to property in the neighbourhood of Shields and Newcastle, and throughout the counties of Durham and Northumberland, is very extensive indeed, and the restoration of buildings and walls blown down will involve an expenditure of some thousands of pounds. The list of casualties is very extensive, but no life has been lost on land. The electric telegraph poles that were blown down upon the North-Eastern Railway, have been restored.

In Scotland the effects of the storm appear to have been very disastrous. On the night between Wednesday and Thursday, Glasgow and neighbourhood, and the whole west of Scotland, were visited by a frightful hurricane. Heavy rains fell at intervals during the day, accompanied by wild squalls, which, after nightfall, lent themselves into storm-blasts of the most potent character, and continued during the entire night with greater or less intensity. Fortunately, the loss of life and injury to the person may be easily summed up; but the damage to, or the destruction of, property in the aggregate, is very great. In the morning the city presented a desolate and battered aspect. Roofs were untiled, chimneys and chimney cans overturned in all directions, and the streets strewn with the fragments.

The storm was bitterly experienced along the vale of Clyde. It appears to have been about its height from 12 till 3 o'clock in the morning.

The damage done at the Broomielaw is not of such a serious description. Three vessels were broken from their moorings, and drifted up the river till intercepted by the Broomielaw Bridge.

The hurricane was experienced in great fury in the village of Govan. A young woman named Jessie Muir, twenty-five years of age, whose father had died so recently as on the Saturday previous, was in the house alone, and began to get very frightened as the storm grew in intensity. She according went into the house of a neighbour, but had only been there for a few minutes when the chimney fell through the roof of the house, by which she was deprived of life on the spot.

At Whiteinch, the storm was not less severe. In Messrs. Barclay and Curle's establishment, the smithy and part of the engineers' shop were destroyed. The smithy in the premises lately occupied by Messrs. Sandeman and M'Laurin was unroofed, and the adjoining workshops otherwise injured.

About 8 o'clock on the Wednesday night, a fearful wind rose, accompanied by rain. By 10 o'clock the gale was at its height at Paisley, and slates and chimney-cans were flying in all directions. In the course of the night a number of stacks were blown down, and a number of houses completely destroyed; the roofs carried off, the windows smashed in, and made total wrecks. On Thursday morning the streets of Paisley presented a singular appearance—all strewn over with chimney-cans, slates, tiles, rubbish of all kinds, also a large quantity of thatch-straw. A boat laden with charcoal at the quay was turned over on her side, and the whole of the charcoal thrown into the water. The premises of Mr. Paul Campbell, bleacher and printer, Lennox, have also suffered very severely. A three-storey house, used for the printing business, was completely demolished.

Pollakshaws and its neighbourhood were exposed to the full force and fury of the storm. The streets of the town were next morning strewn with broken chimney-cans and slates. In some cases thatched houses were nearly unroofed, and in many of the more exposed places the slates have also been more or less blown from the roofs.

At Renfrew Ferry, the tide rose to such a height as to flood the lower flats of several of the houses to the depth of between two and three feet. The gas was extinguished, and the inhabitants of the houses referred to were under the necessity of standing upon tables or sitting upon the sills of the windows, from half-past one o'clock till three, when the tide receded. As a matter of course, much valuable property was destroyed.

The river and frith at Bowling were terribly agitated. Ships were driven from their moorings from the tail of the bank, and a large vessel was driven up the river by the gale, and cast ashore near Cardross Bay, where she lies on her beam ends. The steamers which were moored or lying "in ordinary" in Bowling Bay, were driven from their moorings. The steamer *Wellington* has sunk in the bay, and the steam-yacht of Mr. M'Liver, of Liverpool, remains in a similar position.

On the same fatal Wednesday evening Greenock was visited by the most violent tempest which has swept over it in the memory of those now living. Slates, tiles, and chimney-cans literally rained upon the streets. The pathway leading along the shore westward from the Bay of Quick has been much destroyed, and rendered impassable at several spots. A quantity of timber was floated away from the Bay of Quick, and in that vicinity several sheds were unroofed, and two brick walls levelled to the ground. Several of the boats which were lying on the beach were floated away, and a schooner on a neighbouring slip was self-launched, and has not been heard of since. Serious damage was suffered by the shipping in the harbour.

Of the vessels lying in the roads, some went ashore in the neighbourhood of Helensburgh, others drove for some distance; and two large ships—the *Mohawk* and *Stentor*—rode out the gale. So fiercely did it blow, and so heavy was the sea, that the latter vessel was pitching bowsprit under with 125 fathoms of chain on her port anchor.

At Helensburgh the loss of property has been very great (some of the residents estimating it as high as £100,000), as it was exposed to the whole fury of the gale. The tide flooded the shops and houses in the street close to the beach, and it is rumoured that several people have been drowned.

The storm was very violent at Ayr on Wednesday. A stiff breeze from the south-west had been blowing during the afternoon, accompanied by heavy showers of rain and sleet, and towards evening it began gradually to gather strength, and continued so until about 12 o'clock, when it increased to a perfect hurricane. Numbers of chimney-tops were tumbled into the streets, houses were partially or wholly unroofed, garden pailings and walls were levelled to the ground, lamps were broken and lamp-posts cast down, and even the firmest houses shaken to their foundations. In some places the sea encroached 50 yards. The new Free Church in course of erection at Wallace-town has been seriously damaged. The front gable, composed mostly of elaborate masonry, has been blown down, and one of the side walls has also been injured.

FIGHT BETWEEN AMERICAN AND GREEK SAILORS.—An affray between some American and Greek seamen has recently occurred at Cardiff, where several vessels of Greece and America are at present stationed. A difference having arisen between some of the men belonging to each, a general quarrel soon afterwards broke out amongst them, when the Greeks finding themselves overmatched by their antagonists in point of numbers, took refuge at a tavern in the town. Here they were pursued by the Americans, who assembled in large numbers outside the doors, using deadly threats to those within. Fearful of the consequences of this disturbance, a peace-officer of Cardiff, having assembled as powerful a constabulary force as he could muster, attempted to disperse the mob which had by this time assembled in the place. This, however, they were unable to do. The Americans swore they would drive whoever attempted to interfere with them out of the town; and after a time they rushed into the house upon the Greeks, and savagely attacked them. A furious skirmish then ensued, which could not be quelled until the arrival of a fresh body of police, when several of the rioters were taken into custody, and order was soon afterwards restored.

WEEKLY OBITUARY.

CLARKSON, MRS. C.—On the 31st ult., died at Pl'wood Hall, near Ipswich, Mrs. Catherine Clarkson, aged 83. She was the relict of Thomas Clarkson, he who stood in the front of that noble band of labourers which, after many years of seeming y hopeless toil, effected the abolition of the African Slave Trade. Mrs. Clarkson was a native of Bu y, and the eldest (Mr. Robert Buck, of Newton, being the youngest, and now the sole survivor), of the six children of Mr. William Buck, many years a resident of considerable influence in Yorkshire—the younger brother of the Recorder of Leeds, whose daughter married Sir Francis Wood, a whig baronet, and whose grandson is Sir Charles Wood, a Cabinet Minister during several Whig administrations. Mrs. Clarkson was for many years confined to the couch of an invalid, but yet fit companion, the solace, and the support of her husband in his long labours and trials by her peculiar qualities. She was distinguished by her social virtues, her animation, and her colloquial eloquence. It was by these qualities that, when Mr. Clarkson was compelled to suspend his labours and take up his residence in Westmoreland, she, as well as her husband, obtained the warm and permanent friendship of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey, the allied poets, and Charles Lamb, their congenial friend, as appears in numerous passages of their several works. She was by no means the passive comfort of her husband during his long labours. Mr. Clarkson, destined to the church by his education, had taken deacon's orders, when he renounced the functions of a clergyman, in order to discharge the special duty he had imposed upon himself. He had at the same time embraced opinions in favour of civil and religious liberty, which afforded a pretext to the supporters of slavery to accuse him of Jacobinism (the Radicalism of the generation). He found allies in the family and dissenting connections of his wife. Mrs. Clarkson's mother was of a dissenting family, a Corbie, widely connected; and her sister, the parent of a numerous well-known family, was a Hardcastle. When her health permitted, she was the companion of her husband on his several missionary journeys. She attended him to Paris, when he in vain strove to obtain from the assembled sovereigns of Europe a declaration that the Slave Trade was piracy, and enjoyed with him his triumph at the close of his career, when he received from the hands of the Lord Mayor the record of his admission to the freedom of the City of London, in recognition of his Abolition services, and an indirect expression of the national sense of the wrong he had sustained at the hands of the sons of Mr. Wilberforce.

CARLISLE, BISHOP OF.—On Feb. 5, at Rose Castle, near Carlisle, aged 71, after a very short illness, died the Honourable Dr. Percy, bishop of that see. Dr. Percy was born in 1784, and was the second son of George, first earl of Beverley, K.G. (son of Hugh, first Duke of Northumberland), by a sister of Peter Burrell, Esq., of Beckenham, Kent, afterwards created Lord Gwydir. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. in 1805, and in the following year married Mary, eldest daughter of the late Archbishop (Manners-Sutton) of Canterbury. In 1807 he took orders, and we may readily believe that the grandson of the Duke of Northumberland and son-in-law of the Archbishop of Canterbury, would not be long in finding his way to ecclesiastical preferment. What livings he held in early life we cannot ascertain, but in 1811, before reaching the age of 28, he became Chancellor of Salisbury, and in 1816 was preferred to the sinecure prebendal stall of Finsbury, in St. Paul's Cathedral, usually known as the "Golden Prebend," and valued in the Clergy List for 1855 at nearly £1,500 a year. With this stall and his chancellorship he seems to have been content till 1827, when he was appointed to the see of Rochester, on the death of the late Dr. Walker King, and in the following October was translated to the see of Carlisle, in the room of Dr. Goodenough, in order to make room for Dr. Murray, for whose promotion to a better see than that of Sodor and Man the Duke of Atholl naturally bargained before he parted with his sovereignty over the Isle of Man. Dr. Percy was a High Churchman of the old school of Lords Liverpool and Eldon, but no favourer of the opinions of the Oxford school of theology. He rarely interfered in politics, and seldom took any prominent part in the ecclesiastical affairs of his quiet and remote diocese. It is not long, however, since he showed the elements of his ecclesiastical spirit by refusing to consecrate a burial-ground for the Church of England, unless it was separated by a wall from that of the Dissenters. By his first wife, who died in 1831, Dr. Percy leaves behind him a large family. His eldest son assumed the additional name of Heber, on marrying the daughter of the late Right Rev. Bishop Heber of Calcutta. In 1840, Dr. Percy married, as his second wife, the Hon. Miss Hope-Johnstone, many years a maid of honour to the late Queen Adelaide, and sister of J. J. Hope-Johnstone, Esq., late M.P. for Dumfries, who claims the extinct Peerage of Annandale; but he was again left a widower in 1851.

HUNLOCK, SIR H.—On the 8th instant, in Grafton Street, aged 43, died, after a long illness, Sir Henry Hunlock, of Wingerworth Hall, near Chester, Derbyshire. The deceased Baronet, who was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for his native county, was only son of the fifth Baronet of that name; by the eldest daughter of the late Thomas Ealeston, Esq., of Scarisbrick Hall, Leicestershire. He was born in 1812, and succeeded his father in 1816, when only four years of age. He was the representative of a long line of Roman Catholic ancestors; the first Baronet of his line was an enterprising and energetic partisan of the Royal cause in the Great Rebellion, and particularly distinguished himself at the battle of Edge Hill, for which he was raised to the Baronetcy by Charles I. in 1642. An aunt of the present Baronet was married in 1822 to William Charles, 4th Earl of Albemarle.

ARKWRIGHT, GEORGE, ESQ., M.P.—On the 5th instant, at his chambers, in the Albany, Piccadilly, died George Arkwright, Esq., M.P. for Leominster, aged 48. The deceased gentleman, who was eldest son of R. Arkwright, Esq., of Sutton Hall, near Bakewell, Derbyshire, by the daughter of Stephen George Kemble, Esq., of the county of Durham, was born in 1808, and was never married. He was a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for Derbyshire, and in 1842 was elected for Leominster in the room of his brother-in-law, Sir James Wigram, Q.C., promoted to the post of a Vice-Chancellor; and he continued to represent that borough in the Conservative interest up to the time of his death. He had previously contested the Northern Division of Derbyshire, without success, in 1837. He was extremely fond of yachting and other nautical amusements, and seldom or never took an active or prominent part in the debates of St. Stephen's. He was a zealous supporter, however, of Lord Derby's policy, and to the last, we believe, he desired to return to agricultural protection. His grandfather, Sir Richard Arkwright, the inventor of such great improvements in spinning, began life in a humble way, as a barber, at Bolton; but, by his ingenious discovery, the benefit of which was secured to him and protected by patent, and the originality of which was put to the test by legal proceedings in 1785, made an enormous fortune, and died worth nearly half a million of money, having been High Sheriff of Derbyshire, and having received the honour of knighthood from the hands of George III., not for his ingenious improvements in machinery and manufactures, but for presenting to the King an address of congratulation on his escape from assassination by Margaret Nicholson.

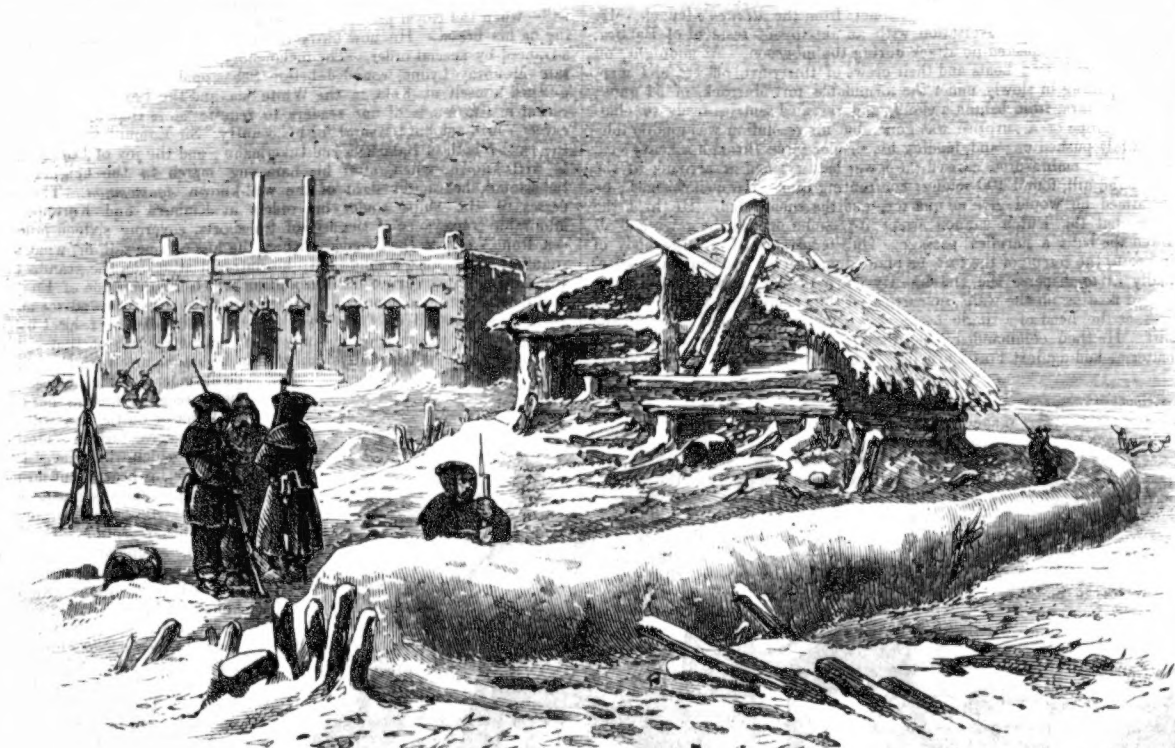
YARBURGH, Y., ESQ.—On the 2nd instant, at Stockton Hall, the residence of his brother-in-law, George Lloyd, Esq., died, Yarbrough Yarbrough, Esq., of Heslington Hall, and Newbury House, in Yorkshire. In 1848 he filled the office of High Sheriff of Yorkshire; he was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant of the East Riding. We believe that his sister, Mrs. Lloyd, succeeds to the Heslington estates.

GASKELL, B., ESQ.—On the 19th ult., at Thornes, near Wakefield, in his 75th year, died Benjamin Gaskell, Esq., who sat as M.P. for Malden, in the Tory interest, from 1816 to 1826. He was a Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

BEDFORD, DEPUTY.—Deputy Bedford, who has represented the ward of Farringdon Without in the Court of Common Council for the last 29 years, expired on Sunday, the 27th ult., in the 79th year of his age.

A CHANCE FOR THE BACHELORS.—A young lady, pretty and well educated, residing in the arrondissement of Pithiviers (France), has conceived the idea of putting herself up to lottery. There are to be 300 tickets at 1,000 francs each, and to the fortunate winner she will give herself and the 299,000 francs by way of dowry. The lady has attached some very prudent conditions to the purchase of tickets. She will only sell them to persons whom she may think well suit her; and in order to ascertain that point, she exacts a half-hour's *à-la-à-la* conversation with each applicant. There is no limit of age imposed, but more than one ticket may be taken by one person. The lottery will be drawn on the 25th of November next, at the Mairie at Pithiviers. No married men are allowed to take tickets. It is said that a number of Englishmen have already become purchasers, and applications are coming in from all quarters.

EMBALMING A WIFE.—The following curious circumstance is just now creating some merriment in commercial circles. A Yankee captain, whose cargo was consigned to Messrs. Baring and Co., had the misfortune to lose his wife, who was on board with him on the voyage, and being reluctant to throw the body overboard, resolved upon bringing her to England, there to receive proper sepulture. A portion of the cargo consisted of oil of cinnamon. The captain took a sufficient quantity, and placed the body in it, thus effectually embalming it for the remainder of the voyage. On arriving at the port of London, the Yankee captain called upon the parties to whom the oil was consigned, and requested to know how much he was to pay for the quantity of oil he had used. He was astounded at being told that the value of the oil so used was £900, and that he must immediately pay over that sum. Of course, this was out of the question, and the captain was soon after arrested for the amount, but was bailed by Messrs. Baring, who, it is reported, have satisfied the owners. The Customs' authorities having been made acquainted with the circumstances, refused to allow the cinnamon oil to be landed. The Yankee captain will therefore have to take the oil back to America, and there dispose of it. The oil is used for flavouring pies, pastry, and perfumery.



FRENCH ADVANCED POST INSIDE THE VILLAGE OF KINBURN.

THE FRENCH AT KINBURN.

IN the month of December, the French steam-corvette *Phlegethon* was despatched from Kamiesch to Kinburn with provisions for the garrison of the latter place. The Dnieper was frozen over shortly after the *Phlegethon* arrived. This premature frost was followed by a first breaking-up of the ice, which, owing to the excellent measures adopted, occasioned the corvette no damage. A few days passed by, and the river froze again, the cold continuing daily to increase, until the ice measured from a foot and a half to three feet in thickness. The centigrade thermometer fell to 24 deg. below the freezing point. On the arrival of the corvette, the soldiers and sailors composing the garrison were in want of nothing. They were provided with excellent sheep-skin clothing, plenty of wood for fuel, and abundance of food. They were full of ardour, and anxious to measure themselves with the enemy. Reports had arrived from different quarters that the Russians contemplated an attack on Kinburn. A great movement of troops had been remarked on the side of Otschakoff, and it was believed

an assailing party for some time. The guns were so placed as to be able to sweep off any body of men approaching from certain points.

About a mile from the fort stands the pretty village of Kinburn, strongly occupied, and protecting the whole length of the isthmus by an entrenchment and several batteries. On the right and left of the coast of the Liman and of the Black Sea, two floating batteries, mounting each sixteen guns, had in range everything that might venture to approach the intrenchments of the village. Although the cold during the winter is intense, there were few cases of sickness and frost bites among the garrison, thanks to the exertion of the medical staff.

The Russian cavalry outposts have sometimes come within a mile of the French posts. One day they succeeded in carrying off three officers who had imprudently ventured out shooting—their horses were killed, and some of the men were wounded by a shell from the mountains. The prisoners were taken to Nicolaieff, but kept outside the town, probably to prevent their seeing the state of the fortifications. The Emperor Alexander had just arrived there. On hearing of the capture, the Czar ordered one of the officers to be presented to him. The Czar conversed familiarly with him, speaking very kindly, and asked him many questions relating to the war, avoiding, however, all embarrassing subjects. On dismissing him he shook him by the hand, and said, "I give you a hand which will soon, I hope, be a friendly one."

The island of Tendra is perfectly flat, with scarcely any beach. It is covered with a marshy vegetation, showing no signs of cultivation. The Russians have constructed a good lighthouse at this point, the lantern of which they took care to remove previous to evacuating the place. Tendra forms, with the coast of Kinburn, a large and safe bay, in which a fleet might anchor in seven or eight fathoms. At the last accounts the sea was frozen over for some distance, and the ice had entirely destroyed the landing-place.

Within the fort of Kinburn is a monument, generally supposed to be the tomb of Suwarrow, but in reality it is a monument erected in honour of this famous General, who, it will be remembered, captured Kinburn from the Turks.

The French troops commenced early in the season making preparations for entering upon their winter quarters, and soon comfortably housed themselves within the town. All classes among the garrison—soldiers, sailors,

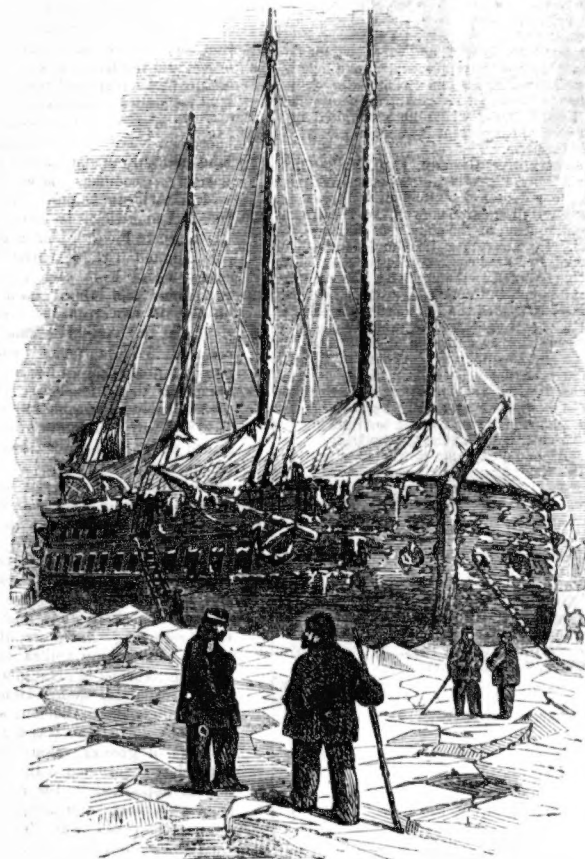
artillerymen, and camp followers—seemed to be indifferent to the cold, which, however, occasionally froze their noses and their ears. The style of costume adopted by them to protect themselves from the severity of the weather was varied in the extreme.



MONUMENT TO MARSHAL SUWARROW IN KINBURN FORT.

THE ANGLO-GERMAN LEGION.—We read in a letter in the "Indépendance Belge," dated Hamburg, Feb. 3:—"Notwithstanding the prospect of the speedy conclusion of peace, which we here consider as certain, the English agents continue to enlist recruits in the different countries of the north, in virtue of fresh orders to that effect lately forwarded from London. Last week several boats, having on board a certain number of volunteers, left the Elbe and the coasts of the North Sea for Heligoland, where the 5th Regiment of Light Infantry, in the pay of England, is being formed. In the meantime several German officers have received commissions for the Legion from the English Ministry of War. Most of them formerly served in the army of the duchies of Holstein-Schleswig. The Government of Electoral Hesse has taken proceedings against the officers, natives of the duchy, who have accepted commissions in the Anglo-German Legion. This measure is the more unaccountable, as everybody knows that at another period the same Government readily supplied England with thousands of Hessian subjects when she was engaged in a war with her revolted colonies of North America. The winter horse-fairs in the north have been frequented by merchants from all the countries of Europe. Cavalry and artillery horses were purchased at higher prices than last year, and the number of those useful animals exported during the last two years is so considerable that very few are now to be found in the country.

LORD PALMERSTON, according to the Russian journal "Le Nord," in a recent interview with a diplomatic agent of the Hanseatic Towns, characterised the Hamburgers as nothing but a set of smugglers.



THE DEVASTATION, FLOATING BATTERY, IN THE ICE AT KINBURN.

that a portion of the forces would cross over on the ice. Captain Paris, the superior commander, had taken the necessary measures to repel them, but they did not present themselves. The ships of war were occupying excellent positions. The whole of the western part of the isthmus, from the intrenched fosse situated in advance of the village, was commanded by the floating batteries, and the enemy would be obliged to pass under the fire of their guns, which completely sweep the neck of land, about 900 yards wide at that point. The Russians were said to feel greatly annoyed at the occupation by the Allies of the mouth of the Dnieper, whence a close watch was kept upon the important positions of Nicolaieff, Cherson, and Otschakoff.

The ships and floating batteries were soon firmly imbedded in the ice, and the officers of the French Navy at once adopted proceedings to fortify themselves against an attack. With this view they determined to convert each vessel into a regular fortification, and, as each fortified place ought to have a deep ditch round it, they resolved not to be wanting in one. Accordingly, all round each vessel the ice was sawed away for some distance, so as to place every vessel in a state of complete isolation. Every morning the first thing done was to break the ice close to the vessels, and re-establish the circle of water. Bridges were thrown across from the stem and stern, and at a moment's notice these moveable passages could be drawn on deck. In various parts of the ice, also, holes were cut to embarrass an approaching enemy, and care was taken to keep these clear each day. At some distance off, the pieces of ice which had been cut away were piled up: these formed very strong barricades, calculated to arrest



WHITE HAYES, HAMPSHIRE—THE BIRTHPLACE OF ADMIRAL LYONS.

WHITE HAYES, THE BIRTH-PLACE OF SIR E. LYONS.

Few places exceed in beauty the neighbourhood of Christchurch; the scenery of sea, island, forest, river, valley, and hill, are all combined within the area of a few miles. The vicinity is in consequence studded with the seats of noblemen and gentlemen of fortune. Hither retired the great Lord Bute, and for years, on High Cliff, forgot the cares of state. On part of his property, Lord Stuart de Rothesay built the present Rothesay Castle, like Lord Bute's mansion, destined to lie beneath the waters of the adjoining bay, owing to the continual sap of the cliff, on which it stands, by the action of the land springs. The Earl of Malmesbury resides but a few miles distant, at Heron Court. But these will give place in interest to the house, a view of which we now offer to our readers—White Hayes, in which Sir Edmund Lyons was born, Nov. 21, 1790.

The hamlet of Burton, with the adjoining village of Winton, form a township in the hundred of Christchurch. Winton is mentioned in "Domesday Book," under the name of Weringetone, "the town on the weirs," a designation singularly appropriate, as it brings before the mind the large weirs on the river Avon, which flows immediately below it. It was a royal manor in the reign of the Anglo-Saxon Kings. Tosti, the brother of King Harold, held it, and was succeeded in his tenure by Waleran, the royal huntsman.

Two miles supplied the mansion with meal; forest lands stretched away to the north, and 14 villagers and three borderers tilled the adjacent farms. Burton recalls the site of the manor baro.

Winton has for many years been the residence of the family of Walcott; and the father of the present Member for Christchurch married Catherine, sister of the father of Sir Edmund Lyons, who for some time, until his removal to St. Austin's, near Lymington, resided at Burton. The brothers-in-law held commissions in the loyal Christchurch Volunteer Artillery; Mr. Walcott was the Colonel, and Mr. Lyons the Major of the corps. At the recent address to Sir Edmund, the colours, which had been lately renewed by Admiral Walcott, were taken down from the choir of Christchurch, and borne in the procession by the few veteran survivors of the corps.

The hamlet of Burton, scarcely two miles from Christchurch, and less than half that distance from Winton, boasts its pretty village-green, and neat cottages on each side; a Roman Catholic chapel, and one belonging to the Church of England, close it on either hand.

At the southern extremity of this little common, stands, within its own enclosure of several acres, well timbered, and gracefully planted, White Hayes. The original house has received very considerable changes since the time when, more than sixty years ago, Sir Edmund was a little boy, playing on its lawns. The judicious additions of the late Lord Keane, and its present owner, George Nicholson, Esq., have greatly improved the house. In it the hero of Afghanistan died in 1844, and was borne from it to his last resting-place, in the churchyard of St. Michael's, Sopley.

Even that distinguished officer could not boast so many orders and stars as those rewards of diplomatic and naval service, which may glitter on Sir Edmund's left breast. France of the Bourbons and Napoleon, Sweden, Turkey, Sardinia, Greece, as well as his own country, have furnished them. Most gracefully did his son-in-law, Lord Arundel and Surrey, allude to the circumstance, adding that, if there existed an Order of Merit for domestic virtues, his right breast would be equally covered with its decorations.

SIR EDMUND LYONS.

SIR EDMUND LYONS was born at Burton, Hants, Nov. 21, 1790, and is the second son of the late John Lyons, Esq., of Antigua, and St. Austin's House, Lymington, Hants, and Catherine, daughter of J. Main Walrond, Esq., of Mountrath, Devon. His father was a Major of the Christchurch Volunteer Artillery. His elder brother is Admiral John Lyons, of Fanham, Hants; he is also first-cousin to Admiral Walcott, M.P. for Christchurch.

His early patron was the late Sir Richard Bickerton, after whom he named his eldest son. He was educated under the late Dr. Richard, at Hyde Abbey School, Winchester, then in the height of its eminence; among its scholars may be named George Canning, Dean Gaisford, and Wolfe, the author of the Ode on the burial of Sir John Moore. In June, 1801, he entered the royal navy, on board the *Royal Charlotte* yacht, under Sir Harry B. Neale; and in the following year joined the *Maidstone*, Capt. R. H. Moubray, god-father to his late, lamented son. In 1807, we find him serving in the *Active*, 38, during the memorable passage of the Dardanelles, by Sir John Duckworth, and engaged in the successful assault upon the redoubt of Point Pesques on the Asiatic shore. On Nov. 22, 1809, he was confirmed lieutenant of the *Barracouta* brig; and on August 9, 1810, took part in the capture of the island of Banda Neira, and was one of the foremost in the escalade of the Castle of Belgica, during the raging of a terrific storm at midnight—an achievement of the highest order, when we remember the difficulty of the approaches and navigation, and the strength of the garrison; and most important in its results, as the capture of another Dutch colony added much to the influence of the English name in the Indian Seas. On his arrival with the welcome tidings at Madras, Admiral Drury appointed him flag-lieutenant of the *Minden*, 74. He had learned at Banda the useful lesson, that to courage and skill no difficulties are insurmountable. Within a twelve month, in the same ship, he sailed to the coast of Java, to await the arrival of an expedition then

fitting out in India, and destined to attempt the reduction of the island. On July 27, having landed some prisoners from the *Minden's* launch, Mr. Lyons found, from conversation with an intelligent resident of Batavia, that the Dutch expected no attack during the monsoon. At midnight, on the 29th, with two boats and their crews of thirty-five officers and men, he was pulling in slowly under the formidable fort Marrack, of 54 guns; the moon burst from behind a cloud, and revealed sentries ready to challenge. Hope of a surprise was gone, but his resolution was unalterable. He boldly pushed on; and, landing his slender force, through a heavy surf, beneath the embrasures, carried the lower battery, and on arriving at the top of the hill, found 400 soldiers confronting him. His men charged; he exclaimed he would give no quarter, and the enemy fled. He held the place, but the Dutch cannon swept it; so he opened the gates and allowed the balls a harmless passage. On the advance of a large body of troops to the rescue of the fort, he planted and served two cannon so effectually as to disperse the Dutch. By dawn of day, leaving the British ensign floating on the walls, he carried off the enemy's colours before their eyes, at the head of a single boat's crew; for the barge had bilged in the surf. He then commanded a flotilla of five gun-boats, and served in the batteries laid against Fort Cornelis. His exertions during this period be-

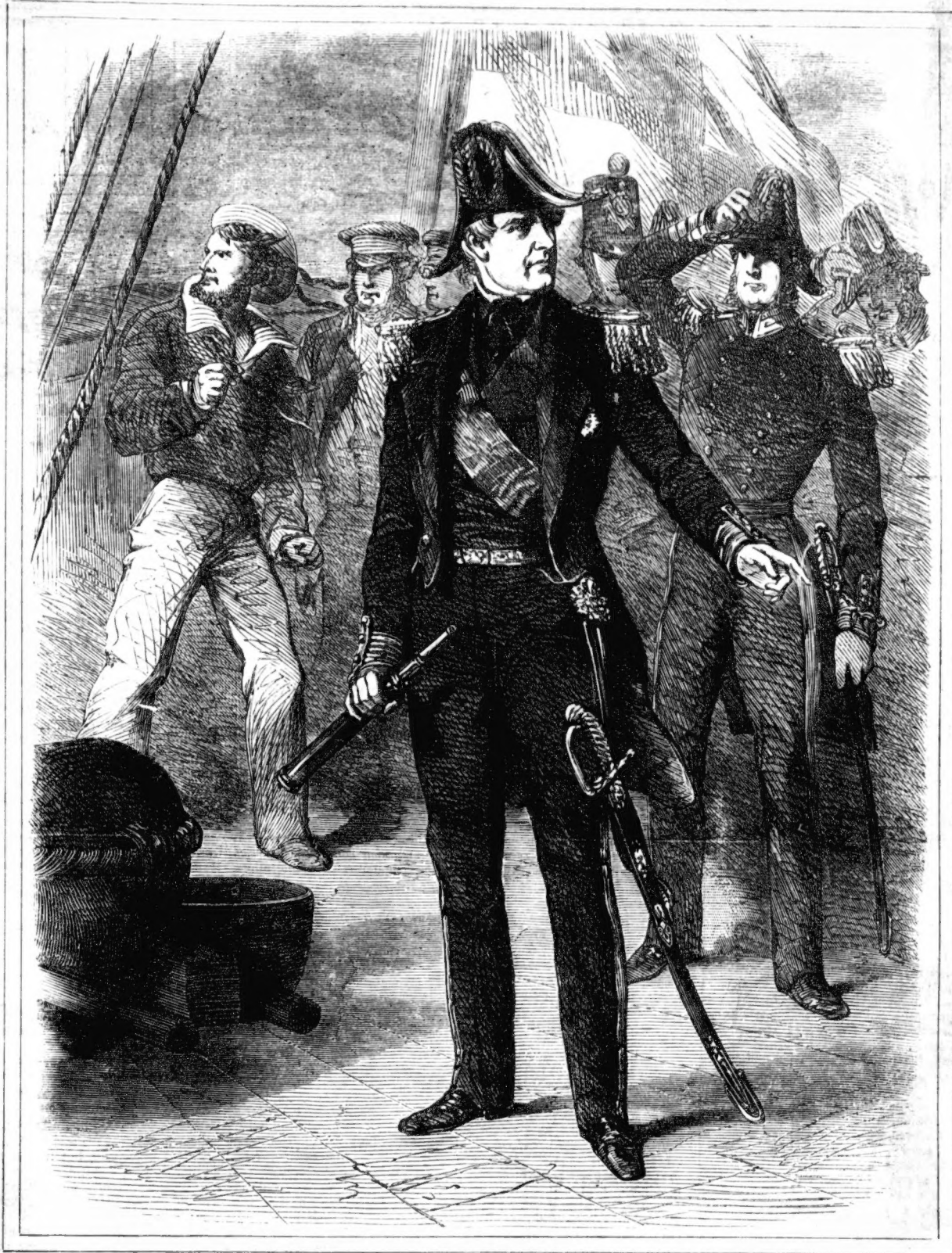
1844; and received the first-class Medjidie in 1855. Other decorations will—when the Royal permission to wear them is accorded—not be wanting on his breast. He now bears the rank of Admiral, to which he was advanced by special order. The melancholy fate of his beloved son, Captain Moubray Lyons, wounded before Sebastopol, who so highly distinguished himself at Kola, in the White Sea, and the Sea of Azof, is too recent in the minds of our readers to require more than allusion to his career—brilliant, but too short for his country. Sir Edmund was present at the battles both of Balacava and Inkermann; and the joy of Lord Raglan is well known, when, after his harassing march to the heights over Sebastopol, he caught sight of the well-known *Agamemnon*. The successes of the ships under his orders at Kinburn and Kertch; his admirable conveyance of the fleet of transports, covering sixteen miles of sea, from Varna to the Crimea, without the loss of one sail, or, what is of infinitely more price, a single life; his intrepid attack on the granite Fort Constantine, have earned for him a name which the gratitude of England will now look to see ennobled. He was recalled to give his advice at the great War Council of Paris; was received with peculiar respect by the Emperor, in consideration not only of his gallantry, but of that cordial courtesy which he has always exhibited in his intercourse with the French commanders; the Queen has twice received him as her guest at Windsor Castle; he will probably receive further entertainments, which will be most gratifying to his heart; but no more touching acknowledgment of his services will be offered to him than his reception at Christchurch. Popular honours are his due; his birthplace welcomed the fellow-townsmen whom it knew and loved.

He married, July 18, 1814, Augusta, second daughter of the late Captain Josias Rogers, R.N., and niece of Admiral Thomas Rogers. This amiable lady died in 1852. He has two daughters—Anne Theresa Bickerton, married, December 24, 1839, to Baron Philip de Wurzburg, and Augusta Mary Minna Catherine, married, June 19, 1839, Henry, Earl of Arundel and Surrey; and one son, Richard Bickerton Pennell, attaché at Florence and en-tresaid at Rome. His younger son was the lamented Captain Edmund Moubray Lyons.

As a fitting pendant to the above brief memoir of a brave sailor and a true-hearted man, we will quote a few sentences from the speech delivered by the Earl of Malmesbury on the occasion of the Christchurch gathering. After alluding to the touching incident of the address to the Gallant Admiral having been read to him by one (Admiral Walcott) who was a distinguished member of the same honourable profession, and at the same time a relative, and the friend alike of his youth and his manhood, the Noble Earl proceeded as follows:—

"When I held the seals of office, the Duke of Northumberland came to me and said, 'You have a man under you whom I wish myself to employ; he is the best man that can command the English Fleet. That man is Sir Edmund Lyons.' And the result would have been equally the same had there been no change of Government. Now, he has at the end of a long life received a compliment which must be gratifying to him. But what has that life been? Let me as briefly as possible tell you. In 1807, the Gallant Admiral served under Sir John Duckworth in forcing the passage of the Dardanelles—one of the most difficult feats of the last war. In 1810 he served under Captain Cole at Fort Banda. Next year he attacked in person the fortress of Marrack with a boat's crew of thirty-four men. He drove the enemy from their guns, and on their returning, again repulsed them; and having spiked their guns, he returned to his ship with scarce a wounded man. Gentlemen, in the course of that long war, I do not believe there was a deed of arms of greater valour than that I last mentioned. In 1828, he was appointed to the *Blonde* frigate—a remarkable occurrence—as that vessel was the first English man-of-war that ever entered the Black Sea. The revolution and redemption of Greece followed. It would take

me too long to recount all the anxiety and trouble experienced by the Admiral during those negotiations. That his services were entirely appreciated, is proved by his being appointed Minister at the new Court of Athens; having done his duty there, he was then sent to the Court of Switzerland, and subsequently to that of Stockholm. It pleased God that his services on a more important occasion should not be lost to his country. When the war with Russia broke out, he was appointed second in command of the Black Sea Fleet, and then it was he performed a feat that was quite equal to any battle—I mean the conveyance of the English army from the coast of Turkey to that of the Crimea. The sea for sixteen miles was covered with his ships, yet not the slightest confusion prevailed, and not a single life was lost. This proves that he must not only have a brave heart, but a superior head to have managed an operation of such magnitude. The war began, and the first shots were fired at the Alma. After that battle, I know nothing more touching than his meeting with Lord Raglan, now no more, and a nobler soldier than whom never breathed. You remember how he led his army through the Russian wilds, and the manner he described in his despatches, his feelings as the noble ship *Agamemnon* hove in sight, when he came from the vale of MacKenzie's farm, and the anxiety with which he expected him at Balacava. Afterwards came the capture of the fortress of Kertch, thereby throwing open a passage to the Black Sea. At a later period occurred the taking of the fortress of Kinburn which can only be compared to another Gibr-



ADMIRAL SIR EDMUND LYONS, G.C.B., COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BLACK SEA FLEET.

fore that stronghold, had so greatly impaired his health as to compel him to invalid home. On March 21, 1821, he became a commander, and on April 5, 1813, took command of the *Rinaldo*, 10, in which he escorted Louis XVIII. to France and the Allied Sovereigns to England, and brought over Mr. Planta, who carried the treaty of Paris. On June 7, 1814, he received post rank. In October, 1828, then in command of the *Blonde*, 46, he blockaded the port of Navarino, and superintended the naval expedition in aid of the French investment of Morea Castle, the last hold of the Sultan in the Peloponnese. For 12 days and nights he was frequently in the trenches. His gallant bearing and his courtesy to the Allies procured for him the insignia of K.S.L. and K.C.R.G. In 1829, he conveyed the Ambassador, Sir Robert Gordon, to Constantinople; and, in Jan. 1831, carried Sir John Malcolm from Alexandria to Malta. The *Blonde* was the first English man-of-war that entered the Black Sea, and in her, Capt. Lyons visited Odessa and Sebastopol. In 1832, in the *Madagascar*, 46, he was an eye-witness of Ibrahim Pacha's bombardment of Acre; and in 1833, attended King Otho and the Bavarian Embassy from Trieste to Greece. In January, 1835, he was knighted, and nominated K.C.H. From July, 1835, to Feb., 1849, he was Minister Plenipotentiary at the Court of Athens. From Feb. 1849, to Feb., 1851, at Berne; and from February, 1851, to December, 1853, at Stockholm. The latter appointment he resigned to take the second command of the Black Sea fleet; he became Commander-in-Chief in January, 1855. He was created a Baronet for civil services in 1840, and G.C.B. July, 10,

tar. The whole course of the Gallant Admiral has been one of uninterrupted successes, wherever he has planned or made an attack. And it is not my poor opinion only that affirms this: I have heard him appreciated by the highest testimony in this country; and I now say it publicly with pride, that I have heard our great and good ally, the Emperor of the French, appreciate very warmly the services of Sir Edmund Lyons."

OUR INQUIRY IN CONNECTION WITH LIFE ASSURANCE.

SINCE the publication of the results of our Inquiry into the extent to which tampering with life prevailed in connection with Life Assurance, we have received numerous letters bearing upon the subject. Of course, none of our statements are questioned, as these were all taken down from the mouths of secretaries or actuaries of life assurance offices, about whose sources of information there could be no doubt.

With regard, however, to the justness of all the "conclusions" we arrived at, some of our correspondents are sceptical. As to the general question, viz., the great increase of speculation in human life during the last two years, and the tampering with life which takes place, there are not, and cannot be, two opinions.

We had called attention to the fact, that the rate of mortality among the assured lives of the Irish was greater than that among those of the English. This appeared to be in accordance with the evidence which we had collected, and which showed that in consequence of Ireland being free from the law which requires the assurer to prove a greater interest in the life than in the death of the assured, there was more temptation in that country than in England to insure "dropping lives," and to assist the "dropping life" in its downward career, by means which were often immoral and sometimes criminal.

One of our correspondents now assures us that the apparent excess of mortality among the Irish assured lives is due to the imperfect manner in which the registration lists of births and deaths are kept in that country. As registration is of very recent introduction in the sister isle, it constantly happens that a man's death is registered when no record whatever has been made of his birth. Besides this, many of the Irish, from the fact of the date of their birth having been nowhere officially inscribed, may be ignorant of their real age, and, argues our correspondent, numerous persons who are set down as having died at a given age, may, in fact, have been much older than their relatives and friends thought them to be.

In spite of this, we are inclined to believe that in the absence of any wilful intention to deceive, the error would be as likely to occur on the one as on the other side of the real age. A hundred Irishmen might actually be all sufficiently vain to fancy themselves younger than they really were, but it would be difficult to find a hundred other Irishmen sufficiently infatuated to believe in the unnatural juvenility of any one but themselves; so that when persons effecting assurances in Ireland have represented the "lives" as younger than they really were, we believe them to have done so simply in order to escape with the payment of a smaller premium than would otherwise have been charged to them.

With regard to the alleged premature deaths of many of the assured, we are not at all willing to accept the imperfect registration theory as explanatory; for in numerous cases quoted by us and obtained from the best authorities, there was direct evidence that the lives of the assured had been tampered with. We do not argue from this that the Irish, as a nation, have a natural inclination to gain money by assuring the lives of their fellow creatures, and then making away with them; but simply that the absence of a law requiring the assurer to have a greater interest in the life than in the death of the assured, tends to promote homicide. We should be inclined to believe that this was the fact, even if there were nothing to prove it; but the cases adduced by us the week before last, seem, when considered in connection with the statistics, to establish it beyond doubt.

A second correspondent suggests a possible error in the inference which we drew from the excess of mortality among assured females, as compared with that among assured males. When we couple the one fact, that offices dislike granting policies to husbands on the lives of their wives, with the other fact that women whose lives have been assured die in a greater ratio than men under the same circumstances, we can understand the hesitation of the offices; and are inclined to think that the greater mortality among the women is not the result of accident. Our correspondent states, that women may be suffering from some illness, of which they do not choose to speak to the medical referee, and that it therefore may sometimes happen that a female life, though accepted as perfectly sound, is in fact almost the reverse. In these cases there is evidently great danger when the assurance is effected by the husband, as he, at all events, cannot be supposed to be ignorant of the state of his wife's health.

Of course innumerable remedies are suggested for all those evils, connected with the practice of life assurance, of which we have already exposed the greater number. The favourite panacea with one gentleman appears to be the indisputability of policies. It is pretended, that offices having once granted a policy should be compelled to pay upon it directly evidence has been given of the death of the person assured; for that the policy being "indisputable," it would thus become necessary to make all requisite inquiries respecting the health and habits of the life before granting the policy at all; instead of instituting these inquiries (with the view of ascertaining the truth of previous representations) after the life has "fallen in," and when the claim for payment has actually been made.

It should be remembered, that, at the present moment, every policy is virtually indisputable, except in cases of fraud, when they are disputed as a matter of course, by all, however "indisputable" the title of the office. Many of the new offices who lay particular stress on the "indisputability" of the policies granted by them, do not hesitate to dispute claims, even when there is only a vague suspicion of deceit. If the proper inquiries be made, and if these be properly answered, the policy is really indisputable by every office alike. But if the questions be answered untruthfully, or even evaded, the policy becomes void, and will be disputed by all offices, those styling themselves "indisputable" not excepted.

We have received one communication, which suggests a Government registration of applications to insure lives, which merits attention, and to which we shall probably revert at some length when we resume our Inquiry. It is proposed that an office should be established by Government at which the name of every person applying to effect an insurance, whether upon his own life or on that of another person, should be duly registered. If the policy were not completed by a single office, the fact of the refusal would be duly noted by the registry not being carried out; and on application being made to insure the "life" at a second office, the latter would consider it its interest, no less than its duty, to inquire into the reasons which had caused the insurance to be declined by the former company. When lives "fell in," the cause of death would, in every case, have to be explicitly stated and certified to. Here, at all events, would be a valuable statistical record, if nothing else.

But the system would have other more direct and far greater advantages. When a man goes from office to office to insure his own life, and gets it ultimately taken at some advanced premium, the affair is simply one of bargain between the company and himself. But when an Irish, or quasi-Irish case, presents itself, in which one man assures another's life, the matter is a very different one. At present (as we showed by actual instances, in the "Illustrated Times" of a fortnight since), A may go round to a dozen offices in order to insure the life of B, in which he has scarcely any interest. The case is looked upon as a suspicious one, especially if B's life is of the class known as "dropping;" but A, by offering an advanced premium, at last prevails upon some speculative office to engage to pay a certain sum on the death of his friend. The assurance once effected, A may poison B, either with gun or by some more rapid process, and unless the assurance company can prove the crime against him, it will have to pay.

If even it can prove the crime it will neglect to prosecute the criminal (we judge by recent instances), upon condition of his abstaining from making any claim against the office.

But the policy would in all probability not have been granted, for if there were registration of all proposals, as well as of all policies effected, every office would, after a few applications, have ascertained the real condition of the "life" offered, and so the misrepresentations of medical referees would be rendered worse than useless; while the intending assurer

would himself hesitate in reflecting that the Government were in full possession of the circumstances under which he wished to effect the assurance.

Assurance companies become acquainted with certain suspicious facts, and yet do not—indeed, dare not—prosecute. But the Government, placed in the same position, would be bound to institute an investigation.

Next week we shall publish the results of further inquiries made by our correspondent in continuation of his report contained in our number for February 2.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES."

SIR,—In your supplementary number of the 2nd inst., containing the result of your correspondent's inquiries respecting frauds on Life Assurance Companies, I find that he gives as one of the prominent causes of improper speculation in lives, "the eagerness of young Insurance Offices to obtain lives: so that they are induced, in starting, to accept them on any terms without due examination," and the general conclusion which would be drawn from evidence and comment taken together is fairly represented by the dictum of the secretary of office No. VI., that "his own office was very careful, but the young offices took a great many lives after the old offices had declined them," and by that of your correspondent, who states that he was "aware, in common with every one who reads the advertisements in the newspapers, that the young offices accepted lives which those of longer standing declined as a matter of course."

I am no advocate for "young" offices as a class, nor would it be possible to defend the great majority from the charges of reckless expenditure, and ignorance of the business which they have undertaken; but I believe that so far from taking lives which they believe to be questionable, or accepting proposals known to have been declined by other offices, whether older or younger than themselves, they have on these points the timidity of ignorance and a slender purse.

During sixteen years' experience, I have never met with a single case of a "young" office which has been injured by any excessive mortality. On the contrary, the strictness of examination and the fulness of the information required from a "proposer" has very greatly increased during the last ten years. Of this, your correspondent may assure himself if he will get a set of papers from the time-honoured Equitable, and compare them with those of a young office.

Mr. Palmer seems to have been an astute person, and his first applications for life assurance were made to old offices, and he appears to have succeeded in swindling the Sun, the Norwich Union, and the Scottish Equitable, but to have failed with the young offices, except in the case of the Prince of Wales; and this success, up to the present moment, only consists in his having prevailed upon them to accept the premium for an insurance of £13,000, which I believe he is hardly in a condition to press the office to pay him.

If your correspondent wishes to employ his great industry and vigorous intellect on the present state of the life assurance interest, I can promise him a field worthy of him. But as his information and experience increase, it will not be for the too facile acceptance of bad lives that he will secure the young offices, and unless he surrenders his judgment to the representations of the old offices; he will see reason to divide offices according to some more really distinguishing character than mere "age." He will find that it was an old and not a young office that first commenced the pernicious practice of giving commission to "solicitors and others" who would recommend business; that it was an "old" and not a "young" office that raised the commission from "five per cent." on all premiums to "ten per cent." on the first, and "five per cent." on all the rest; that it was an "old" and not a "young" office that further stimulated the kind recommendations of "solicitors and others" by commencing the commission into a payment of "one-third" of the first premium. Finally, I much doubt if, to amend the evils he detects, he will invoke the assistance of Parliament, which is apt, "teste" the Joint Stock Act, to raise a host of devils in the impotent effort to exorcise one.

Your correspondent is already favourably known to the public, but he will very greatly increase his claims on their gratitude, if he will honestly and fearlessly, and I will venture to say, above all, with adequate knowledge of his subject, attempt to enlighten their minds on the assurance question. Any attempt to run down offices, as young or as old, as Mutual or Proprietary, will inflict infinite injustice on individuals. But questions of solvency, of relative advantages, when solvency has been secured, and of expenses of management, are such as may be ventilated to the public advantage without inflicting private wrong.

I cannot, however, recommend this task to him as either a thankful or an easy one.—Your obedient servant,

AN ACTUARY.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.

THE Art season has commenced with the opening of the British Institution; and the bearded faces of Dick Tinto and his friends are once more to be seen in Pall Mall. The collection this year is an average one, containing a few good, many mediocre, and several bad pictures. I have paid it a cursory visit or two, and will give you the result, as detailed in the marginal notes on my catalogue.

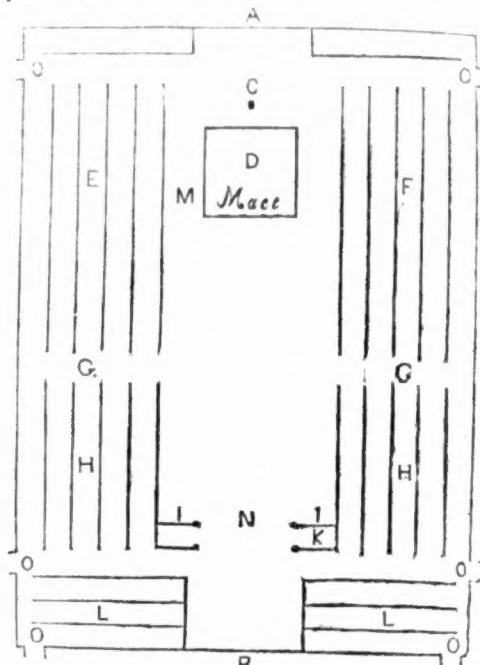
No. 1, "A la Ducaesse, Pas du Calais," is a portrait of two very pretty French fish-girls, as pretty as Mr. Frank Stone can paint fair and dark beauty, and everybody knows his powers in that line. No. 9, "Orchard Intruders," by Mr. Underhill, represents a group of thoroughly English ruddy children, robbing an orchard, and is freshly and naturally painted. No. 36, "A Natural Reflection," by Mr. Wingfield, depicts the interior of a painter's studio, in which the artist himself is showing a photograph to a lady who does not seem particularly moved at the display. The accessories are good, but the only "natural reflection" on beholding it is, Why, on earth, are such pictures painted, and where are their purchasers to be found? No. 60, "The Martyrdom of Ridley and Latimer," by Sir George Hayter, is a striking picture, well grouped and arranged. The principal figures are admirably painted, the feeble resignation of Latimer contrasting well with the earnest manliness of Ridley, and there is great character in the face of the priest who is reproving a Protestant in the crowd. The sky, however, is rather indistinct, and the fust surrounding the stake obviously too green for the purpose for which it is intended. No. 68, an old bridge near Pella, in Piedmont, by Mr. Herring, with mules crossing, is one of the gems of the collection. No. 230, "Monte Rosa," also by Mr. Herring, is another gem, the soft effect of the snow-topped mountains, gleaming in the early morning, is excellent. No. 310, "The Alhambra," by Mr. Telbin, the well-known scenic artist, is very much in the style of Mr. David Roberts, bold and effective. No. 149, is styled by Mr. Morris "The Drive," and represents a flock of sheep chased by a dog. The wool is capitally painted, but the artist has scarcely caught the attitude of the animal, which, as represented by him, is more that of rage than fear. Mr. Danby, in 1844, has, in the "scene suggested by the death of Pompey," a fine misty landscape thoroughly imbued with the spirit of desolation. No. 308 is entitled "Innocence," and represents a swarthy fisher-boy, billing and cooing with an exceedingly plain little girl; the title is well applied to the subject, if the artist means satirically to reflect on the taste of the young gentleman. No. 260, "The Raft," is horrible in its exactness, the eager-strained gaze of the sailors, the ghastly pallor of the starved women, and the utter indifference of the dying man as to whether assistance be at hand or not, recall Byron's description of the shipwreck. No. 252, "Rabbit Ferretting," is a study for a thoughtful man; there is a solemn and inane expression on the face of the principal sportsman, which, though often seen in nature, is seldom reproduced on canvas; the guns are of the true light-red toyshop tint, while the sickly look of the young gentleman in the background, who does not appear to appreciate fire-arms, and the vivid patch in the knee of the keeper's trousers, are depicted with alarming truthfulness. No. 131 is called "Meditation," and represents a young lady looking vaguely out of the picture, her attention being apparently absorbed in scratching her right ear. No. 438, by the same artist, Mr. Lucas, is, however, a sweet female figure, and makes ample amends for the faults of its companion. No. 204, a canal bound with a black frost on a winter's evening, by Mr. Branwhite, is good, the sun-tinted clouds are, however, rather too theatrical in their effect. No. 225, "Fruit," by Mr. Driffield, is almost as good as any painted by Mr. Lance, which is the highest compliment I can pay it. No. 309, "Christabel," by Mr. Naish, is pretty, though it scarcely gave me the notion of Coleridge's heroine. Why cannot our artists find some other attitude for listening than that conventional one of the finger to the ear?

Mr. Eddis has painted a very pretty child's head, covered with flowers. No. 241, which he calls "Summer." No. 140, "A View on the Lago d'Orta," by Mr. Harry Johnson, is a thoroughly Italian landscape, admirably treated; the light and shade are skillfully managed, and the colouring is altogether excellent. No. 316, "At Varenna, on the Lake of Como," by Mr. W. Fenn, is bright, sunny, and well worthy of commendation. No. 458, "A Fairy Ring," represents a mushroom covered with those wonderful elves, over whose production Mr. George Cruikshank has sole control. In No. 148, "Choir of the Church of Santa Maria Novella, Florence," Mr. Louis Haghe has shown that his power of manipulation is as great in oil as in water-colours; and that he deserves to take rank with the first artists of the day. Next week I propose noticing the remainder of the noticeable pictures.

THE LOUNGER.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. VI. INTERIOR OF THE HOUSE.

HERE we have a ground plan of the House of Commons, which needs no explanations.



A. Door leading to the Lobby, Speaker's Room, Members' Room, &c. &c.
B. Entrance to the House. C. Speaker's Chair. D. Table of the House.
E. Ministerial Benches. F. Opposition Benches. G. Gangway.
H. Benches below the Gangway. I. Cross Benches.
K. Sergeant-at-Arms' Seat. L. Peers' Seats. M. Ministers' Seat.
N. Bar of the House. O. Doors leading to Division Lobby.

Seat M. is the ministerial bench, in the middle of which, or thereabouts, sits the Premier, with his hat over his brow, throwing, as the light comes from the ceiling, his face into shade. He generally sits immovable as a statue, seldom moving excepting to whisper into the ear of some other Cabinet Minister. And here he sits from five o'clock until the House rises, with the short interval of half an hour or so, when he goes to the refreshment room. He is more constant and diligent in his attendance than any of the Ministers. Nothing seems to weary this man. At two o'clock in the morning, he appears to be as vigorous as at five p.m.; and, after a long night's work, we have seen him walk home up Parliament Street as fresh as a youth, and yet, if God is right, he is seventy-two years old. On the seat on a line with the ministerial bench, but below the gangway, sit Mr. Drummond, Mr. Roebuck, Sir De Laey Evans, and now Sir Charles Napier; on the seat above, Sir James Graham, looking stronger than ever. Last session, we thought by his appearance his course was well nigh run. Next to him, Mr. Gladstone, and then Messrs. Sidney Herbert, Cardwell, Bright, Cobden, and Milner Gibson. Above these, the bearded member for Birmingham, Mr. Muntz, albeit he is never in his place long together, for, as he says, "he hates nonsense;" so when the nonsense begins, he takes up his ponderous stick and walks, which habit of his often causes his place to be empty. Nevertheless, he will not be far off—within hearing of the bell; so that his name is generally found on important division lists. On the next range upwards is Mr. Hatfield's place, and Mr. Miall's. Messrs. Heywood, Scholefield, and Pellatt, and Sir Joshua Walmesley, also sit somewhere hereabouts. On the front bench of the opposition, exactly opposite the Premier, sits Mr. Disraeli, with Mr. Napier, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Henley, Lord John Manners, and Mr. Banks. Behind them are ranged the old Protectionist party, the Christophers, Bookers, &c. The front seat below the gangway is the place for Mr. Cairns, Mr. John McGregor (whom Glasgow sent as a Liberal, albeit he herds now with the Tories); and generally on the seats behind congregates the Irish brigade. The cross benches are occupied by no one specially.

The "Bar of the House" N. is generally an open passage; but when any one is "brought to the bar," to receive sentence, reproof, or admonition, a brass bar is drawn across the passage. Above the bar, no member must continue standing up, or walk with his hat on; but below the bar, the members may stand covered. The peer's seats L, under the gallery, are reserved for the peers, peer's eldest sons, sons of members (while at school), and, by a very ancient custom, the boys on the foundation of Westminster School, if they appear in cap and gown. Here also the Remembrancer of the City of London and the Sheriffs have a right to a seat. All these have the *entrée* of the House by right; all others must get special permission from the Speaker or Sergeant-at-Arms before they can get a seat here. This is usually granted to persons specially interested in some business before the House, private secretaries of Ministers, and persons of distinction. Over the peers' seats, in the front, is the ambassadors' gallery, to which foreign ambassadors have a right of entrance, and other foreigners of distinction by special permission. Behind the ambassadors' gallery is the Speaker's gallery; admission to this can only be gained by an order from the Speaker or Sergeant-at-Arms. Behind this is the strangers' gallery, to which members' orders admit. The galleries at the sides are for members, and that in the front is for reporters.

APPEARANCE OF THE HOUSE.

Some writers have said that the chamber in which the Commons meet has a smoky aspect, but it does not strike us as being sombre, especially when lighted, and the dark oak fittings are relieved by the handsome crimson velvet curtains, and the painted ground-glass illuminated ceiling, for it may be here remarked, that all the light comes from above, from gas over a ground-glass roof. What struck us when we first entered, was the oddness and smallness of the room. It is of no style, although the carvings of the panelling are Gothic. There is nothing imposing about the room; it is handsome, comfortable-looking, doubtless, but certainly not imposing. The fact is, it is not what the architect intended it to be, nor what it originally was. When the members first took possession it was much higher, and the windows were like all the windows in the palace; but it was found that though the height was not artistically disproportionate to the size, yet it was acoustically, for, to the dismay of the members, hardly a word that was uttered could be heard ten yards from the speaker. Now this was awful, and not to be borne; so Sir Charles Barry had to set to work, and, at any cost of money, beauty, and architectural propriety, remedy the evil. A speech of the Hon. Member for the county of Cork, which had taken days to prepare, and three hours to deliver, to be all broken up and dissipated in unmeaning echoes before it could reach the ear-drums of the reporters, was not to be borne, and so down came the architect with an army of carpenters to cure this dreadful evil; and cure it he speedily did; but he spoiled his room, for there was nothing to be done but to lower the ceiling, or rather make a false one, cutting the Gothic windows in half, so as to make them mere square-topped casements, and also quite hiding from view, of course, the original roof. And in a few weeks, when the House assembled once more, they found that every word that was uttered could be heard in every part of the chamber; but to secure the desideratum, "the House" was reduced from a noble hall to a very odd-looking apartment. It is, moreover, too small, on great occasions, when large numbers of members come down many have to hunt for seats; and if the whole 658 were to be present, they certainly could not all sit down. Practically, however, this is not very inconvenient, as not a dozen times in the session do more come than the room will well accommodate.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EDUCATION.

Earl GRANVILLE introduced a bill for the appointment of a Vice-President of the Council of Education, who is to be a member of the House of Commons.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

Lord CAMPBELL, alluding to this subject, suggested that, instead of referring the matter to a Committee of Privileges, an address should be presented to the Crown, praying that the peerage granted to Sir J. Parke should be made hereditary.

The Earl of DERBY said, in the absence of Lord Lyndhurst, he could not say what course should be followed, but he concurred in the suggestion. The House then adjourned at a quarter to six.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBERS.

Lord Raynham and Mr. Warren took the oaths and their seats for Tamworth and Malvern respectively.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Sir C. WOOD, in answer to Admiral Walcott, said it was intended to confer a medal on the officers and men of the Arctic Expedition as soon as possible.

THE CRIMEAN COMMISSION.

Mr. F. PEEL, in answer to Lord W. Graham, said that, in reply to the animadversions made on them in the Report of the Crimean Army Commission, Sir R. Airey and Lord Lucan were about to make statements in their defence.

THE NAVY IN THE CHINESE SEAS.

Mr. H. J. BAILLIE drew attention to the accounts given in the newspapers with reference to the course pursued by Admiral Stirling and Captain Elliott in the Chinese Seas, and the manner in which they acted with regard to endeavouring to interrupt the Russian squadron in those seas—accounts which indicated a course on the conduct of those officers in not engaging the enemy's vessels, or blockading their ports. He hoped that account could be contradicted; and he asked whether the Government were satisfied with those officers.

Sir C. WOOD declined to accept the duty of watching statements in newspapers on affairs connected with his office. He went into a detail of the movements of the English squadron and the force of the Russians, in the harbour of Amoor. The Admiralty thought the Commodore was quite right in declining to attack with his very small and far inferior force. Everything was done to induce the Russians to come out; but in vain.

BUNHILL FIELDS BURIAL-GROUND.

Mr. FITZROY, in answer to Mr. Miall, said that any attempt to remove bodies from Bunhill Fields burial ground was illegal, and would be prevented.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

Sir G. GREY, in reply to Lord R. Cecil, said it was intended to make inquiry into the working of the Ecclesiastical Commission.

OUR RELATIONS WITH AMERICA.

Mr. CORDEN said that he had recently asked for copies of any correspondence on the two subjects of our dispute with the United States, in the first place with regard to the convention relating to Central America, the object of which was to promote the construction of a ship canal across the isthmus of Darien. This correspondence had been presented to the Congress of the United States, and yet he was told it was not complete or fit to be produced; besides which, it was published in England as a pamphlet. It ought, therefore, to be before the House. As to the other subject of dispute, the enlistment for our army in America, no correspondence had been published either here or in the United States; but it seemed that we had withdrawn our enlisting establishments, and apologised; but, after that, other transactions of the same kind had been renewed. It was acknowledged that we were in the wrong; but the dispute had assumed rather a personal character. If the correspondence were brought before the House, it would be so dealt with as soon to settle all differences; and the question would be safer in the hands of the House and the country than in those of diplomacy and the press.

Lord PALMERSTON said that, as to the question of Central America, the terms of the treaty on that subject were perfectly clear, but the American Government, having put a different construction upon it to that understood by this country, a correspondence ensued, and an offer had been made to refer the matter to arbitration, to which an answer had not yet been received. On reconsideration, he was prepared to produce the correspondence as to the enlistment question. Looking to the reaction which had taken place in emigration, it was thought that many persons would be inclined to enlist in the Canadian colonies from the United States; but strict orders were given not to infringe the laws of America. It was soon found that it was difficult to avoid giving offence to the United States, and orders were sent to discontinue the recruiting. Complaints were soon after made by the American Government, and it was replied that their request had been anticipated, and the recruiting already stopped. An ample apology was moreover made. The American Minister in this country was satisfied; but the subject was renewed by the American Government, and a further correspondence occurred; which, three days before Parliament met, was in such a state that it might and could have been produced; but the day before the opening of Parliament, a new and voluminous despatch was received from America, to which no answer had yet been given, because the materials for doing so were not yet obtained. Therefore, he thought the correspondence was not in a state to be laid before the House, but the moment it was closed it should be produced. He agreed that no conflict could be more lamentable and calamitous than one between two nations so bound by every tie of amity as England and America. He did not believe that such a collision would take place; and nothing that the Government could do to prevent it would be omitted. (Cheers.)

Sir DE LACY EVANS expressed his satisfaction at the tone and spirit of Lord Palmerston's remarks, and hoped there would be no war with America.

The Metropolitan Police Bill was then read a second time.

The Partnership Amendment Bill, after a short discussion, in which the principle of the measure was fully recognised, was read a second time.

The Joint-Stock Companies Bill was read a second time without discussion.

The Burial of the Dead (Ireland) and the Youthful Offenders' (Ireland) Bill, were read a second time.

The House of Commons' Offices Bill passed through committee.

Sir W. CLAY obtained leave to bring in a bill for the abolition of Church Rates, and Mr. Headlam obtained leave to introduce a bill for the Reform of the Medical Profession.

The House adjourned at half-past nine o'clock.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of Shaftesbury presented petitions against the opening of the British Museum and Crystal Palace on Sundays, from Great Grimsby, Upper Clatford, and Colchill.

CRIMEAN COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

The Earl of CARDIGAN complained of certain reflections upon his professional conduct, contained in the Report of the Commissioners, respecting the management of the army in the Crimea. He announced his intention of transmitting an explanatory statement to the War Minister, and trusted that equal publicity would be officially given to his defence as to the attack on his character.

The Earl of LUCAN also charged the Commissioners with misrepresentation, and expressed some surprise that no notice had been taken of the explanations he had already addressed to the War Minister.

Lord PANMURE stated, in reply to Lord Lucan, that his letter had been referred to the Commissioners, and would be laid on the table, together with their reply, in due time. All rejoinders which any officer might think proper to make to the allegations contained in the Report, would, he added, be officially promulgated, if properly sent to the War office with that intent.

THE WENSLEYDALE LIFE PEERAGE.

Lord LYNDHURST having proposed that the Committee of Privileges on the Wensleydale Peerage should meet at two o'clock on Tuesday,

Earl GREY inquired what would be the object and the character of the inquiry which was to be undertaken; and remarked upon the inconvenience that would attend the inauguration of so important and unusual an investigation without some previous indication of its special purpose.

Lord LYNDHURST insisted that the point to be investigated was simple and definite, involving merely the competence of the Crown to confer a Peerage on life tenure. Besides the arguments which Noble Lords might adduce upon this question, the committee of privileges would, he intimated, be invited to hear evidence on the subject from witnesses at the bar.

In the course of a lively conversation, in which the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Derby, Earl Granville, Lord Brougham, and other Peers took part, Lord St. Leonards suggested that the meeting of the committee should be postponed for a few days.

The Trial of Offences Bill was read a second time after a brief discussion.

DISCREPANCY BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

Earl GREY urged some inquiries touching alleged omissions or discrepancies in the despatches sent by Lord Stratford de Redcliffe from Constantinople in 1853 and 1854.

The Earl of CLARENDON, in the course of his explanations on this point, passed a high eulogium on the zeal and diplomatic talents displayed by the British representative at the Porte, and stated that Lord Redcliffe had just succeeded in effacing much of the difficulty which might otherwise have attended the attempts at settling the "fourth point," by securing for the non-Mussulman subjects of Turkey a status which would be highly satisfactory to the Christian Powers of Europe.—Their Lordships then adjourned at six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Martin took the oaths and his seat for Rochester. Numerous petitions were presented by different Members, on behalf of various religious bodies in England and Scotland, against the opening of the British Museum and other places of innocent amusement on Sundays.

SUPPLY—EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Sir H. WILLOUGHBY commented upon the inconvenience which arose from the practice of expending more than the sum granted for particular services, and afterwards placing a vote of excess among the estimates in a subsequent year.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS, in the view of a possible peace, recommended that the estimates should at present be voted for only part of this year.

NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply.

Sir C. WOOD, in moving the estimates for the naval service, prefaced his general statement by alluding to some improvements in the official arrangements at the Admiralty, and its co-ordinate departments, especially as regarded book-keeping, the payment of wages, and other matters of business. Adverting to the estimates now presented, he stated that the amounts had been computed on the presumption that the war would continue without interruption; but only a part of each vote would be immediately asked for, leaving the residue for future discussion when the issue of the approaching conferences should be known. For the active force of the navy it was intended to ask a vote of 66,000 seamen and marines, being 6,000 more than last year, and 10,000 boys. The estimate for the wages of this force was £3,237,593, showing an increase of £352,356 beyond the amount granted last year; but of this gross total he should require a present vote of only £2,000,000. The First Lord then went through the subsequent items in the estimates, which have already been published, stating and explaining the amount and causes of the increments which appeared upon almost every head in the charges for the ensuing twelve months. The grand total for the naval service reached £12,148,641, showing a net augmentation over the previous estimate of £291,135, besides a vote of £204,000 for the excess of expenditure incurred beyond the grants of the bygone session. Respecting the transport service, Sir C. Wood detailed the amount of duty which had fallen to that department during the year. In addition to almost incalculable quantities of matériel and provisions, 50,000 British troops, 5,000 men of the Transport Corps, and 5,000 men of the Foreign Legion had been transported from England to the Black Sea; 26,000 French troops from Marseilles or Toulon, and 19,000 Sardinians from Genoa to the same destination; 5,000 Militia had been conveyed from British ports to the Mediterranean, and 138,000 men had been transferred from Malta or Corfu to the Crimea, and variously transported to and fro in the Black Sea. Besides this vast movement towards the seat of war, some 46,000 men had been conveyed homewards, making altogether 294,000 men embarked and conveyed on different voyages during the year. After enlarging upon the eminent services performed by the navy, the Right Hon. Baronet recapitulated the steps that had been taken to enhance the strength and availability of this arm in the next campaign. Among other additions, he stated that 152 new gun and mortar boats were in course of preparation, and augmenting to a total of 200 the number of that species of vessels, which would be ready for service in the Baltic as soon as the campaign opened. Altogether, should war continue, they would be fully prepared to despatch 350 pennants to the Baltic and 100 to the Black Sea whenever the time arrived for resuming active operations.

After a discussion, embracing a great variety of topics, the vote of £204,982 was agreed to. A vote of 76,000 men for a limited period, and votes on account of £2,000,000 for their wages, and £1,000,000 for their victuals, were likewise agreed to.

The remaining votes underwent some discussion, but passed without amendment; and the resolutions were ordered to be reported.

The House of Commons Offices Bill was read a third time and passed. The House adjourned at a quarter-past eleven o'clock.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE WENSLEYDALE PEERAGE.

Their Lordships met at two o'clock, and having constituted a committee of privileges, proceeded to discuss the legal points involved in the question of the Wensleydale peerage. After much discussion, the committee adjourned until Monday, on which day it was understood that counsel would be heard at the bar in support of Lord Wensleydale's claim to the privileges of a peer. A sub-committee was also nominated, who were in the interim charged to collect and examine all the precedents bearing on the point at issue which could be found on the rolls of the House.

Proceedings were suspended at four o'clock for an hour, when the House re-assembled for the transaction of legislative business. The House of Commons Offices Bill was then brought up and read a first time.

Their Lordships finally adjourned at quarter past five.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Walpole took the oaths and his seat for the University of Cambridge, in the room of the Right Hon. H. Goulburn, deceased.

Mr. Ridley took the oaths and his seat for Newcastle, in the room of Mr. Blackett, resigned on account of ill health.

The Broadstairs Harbour, Pier and Landing-place Bill, was read a second time, and ordered to be committed.

ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAYS.

Mr. LOWE stated, in reply to Mr. Fitzgerald, that a bill would be introduced in the other House, by the President of the Board of Trade, on the subject of railway accidents. The measure, he believed, would be similar in all respects to the bill unsuccessfully attempted last year.

CONFERENCES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. LAYARD inquired whether it was true that the representative of the Sardinian Government had been excluded from the conferences at Constantinople, and, if so, on what account.

Lord PALMERSTON said it had been arranged between France, England, and Austria, that their representatives should meet for the purpose of consulting on measures affecting the Porte, and on the arrangements to be made by the Sultan in favour of his non-Mussulman subjects in the Principalities, but the Sardinian Ambassador had not been communicated with upon these matters, because they were not connected with a treaty of peace. The Sardinian Minister applied to be admitted, but the Ambassadors of England and France had received no instructions. Meanwhile the Sardinian Minister returned to Turin. The conferences had hitherto been confined to the arrangements to be made for the protection of the rights of the non-Mussulman subjects of the Porte.

SCOTCH MUNICIPAL REFORM.

Mr. EWART obtained leave to bring in a bill for extending the provisions of the Scottish Municipal Reform Act to certain royal burghs in Scotland hitherto excluded from the privilege of local self-government.

PUBLIC JUSTICE.

Mr. NAPIER moved the following resolution:—"That, as a measure of administrative reform, provision should be made for an efficient and responsible department of public justice, with a view to secure the skilful preparation and proper structure of parliamentary bills, and promote the progressive amendment of the laws of the United Kingdom."

The motion was seconded by Mr. Collier.

Mr. BAINES stated that the subject of the present motion had already been forestalled by the Statute Law Commissioners, who had matured a definite plan for securing the object in view, which would shortly be laid before Parliament.

Mr. L. King and Mr. Wigram having spoken in support of the motion,

Sir G. GREY said he hoped, as the Government agreed in the spirit of the motion, Mr. Napier would not, after the speech of Mr. Baines, ask the House to express an opinion upon a resolution as to the mode in which his object should be carried out, and which was under the consideration of the able and learned men who composed the Statute Law Commission. The responsibility of the Minister was one of the points to which they had directed their attention. The whole subject was of great importance, involving much detail, and could not be disposed of by a mere resolution of the House.

Lord J. RUSSELL urgently advocated the appointment of some qualified and responsible functionary who could superintend the construction of the bills introduced into Parliament. He cited numerous instances in which legislative delays and disfigurements had been sustained through the careless and imperfect practice that heretofore prevailed.

Further remarks on the necessity of statute law reform were urged by Mr. H. Drummond, Mr. Malins, Lord Palmerston, Mr. R. Palmer, and other Members. The resolution was finally carried, with the omission of the words "an efficient and responsible department of public justice."

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

On the motion of Mr. SCHOLEFIELD, the appointment of a select committee was ordered, to investigate the adulteration of food, drinks, and drugs.

DISQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS.

Mr. MITCHELL moved for leave to bring in a bill repealing an act of George III., under whose provisions all persons who had accepted contracts from the Government were disqualified from being members of Parliament.

The motion was opposed by Mr. J. G. Phillimore; and after a discussion, in the course of which the Solicitor-General and the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressed objections to many of its details, the House divided: for the motion, 46; against, 43—3.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

Mr. Colville obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws relating to the qualifications of justices of the peace.

The Charitable Uses Bill was read a second time.

The Report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to.

The Joint Stock Bank (Scotland) Bill was read a second time. The House adjourned at half-past 11 o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at 12 o'clock, when an immense number of petitions, against the opening of exhibitions on Sundays, were presented by different members almost exclusively on behalf of the different dissenting communities scattered over the country.

FORMATION OF PARISHES BILL.

The Marquis of Blandford's Formation of Parishes Bill was then read a second time, and referred to a select committee; Mr. Hadfield withdrawing his opposition on condition that such reference should be made.

POLICE (COUNTIES AND BOROUGH) BILL.

Sir George GREY postponed the second reading of this Bill till the 27th inst., in deference to what appeared to be the general feeling of the House. The Joint Stock Banks (Scotland) Bill passed through the committee. The House then adjourned at five minutes to three o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS.

Lord REESDALE presented a petition from the City of Worcester, complaining of the blasphemous, immoral, and obscene doctrine promulgated by the "Latter Day Saints," and praying that a law should be passed to repress the promulgation of such doctrine. This petition had arisen from the circumstances of the Mayor of Worcester having refused to interfere, on the ground that Mormons were Protestant Dissenters.

THE FERMIOY PEERAGE.

The Earl of DERBY, after some allusion to the Fermioy peerage case, entered into explanations respecting the range of authority which, in his belief, was assigned to the Committee of Privileges. The Metropolitan Police Bill was read a second time.

UNSEAWORTHY VESSELS.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH presented a petition from seamen, complaining of being compelled by law to serve in unseaworthy vessels. The Noble Earl gave several instances of seamen being sent to prison as deserters, because they refused to sail, according to articles, in ships known to be unseaworthy.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY mentioned that the case had been laid before the law officers of the Crown, and the answer was, that the law already provided a sufficient protection for merchant seamen under the circumstances set forth. The subject then dropped; and their Lordships adjourned at 20 minutes to 7 o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Petitions were presented against the opening of places of amusement on Sundays.

CONDITION OF THE ARMY IN THE CRIMEA.

Mr. LAYARD said he would defer his motion till the 28th inst., when he should append the following: "That the House regrets that those officers whose conduct in their respective departments has been shown by the report of the Commission of Inquiry to have occasioned great and unnecessary sufferings and losses in that army, have received honours and rewards, or have been appointed to, and are still holding, responsible offices in the public service."

THE ARMISTICE.

Mr. EWART inquired "whether it would be lawful to despatch British ships with cargoes to Russian ports during the armistice which is about to be concluded, and, in that case, would articles contraband of war, &c., be exempt from such permission?"

Lord PALMERSTON said he would recommend persons engaged in such business to wait until the terms of the armistice were seen.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE STATUTE LAW.

Sir FITZROY KELLY asked leave to bring in two bills—one to consolidate the statute law relating to offences against the person; and the other to consolidate the statute law relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes. What he proposed to do was, not to codify, but simply to consolidate the statute law as it now existed in the statute-book. This law was now comprised in 35 or 40 large folio volumes, containing about 20,000 acts, and he proposed to subdivide and classify the whole of the subjects, and to re-enact the existing law relating to each in one act, so that the statute-book, instead of 20,000 acts, would contain 200 or 300 only, each act embodying the whole statute law upon one particular subject. To show the necessity of a work of this kind, he observed that the condition of the statute law was such that judges and attorneys, as well as parties, in order to ascertain the written law upon any subject, were obliged either to rely upon a text-book, or to go through the whole forty volumes of 1,000 pages each, in order to find out what statute, or statutes, or portions of statutes, bore upon the subject. This was but one of many evils. He said he now proposed to deal, first, with the statute law relating to offences against the person; secondly, with the statute law relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes, the subjects of the two bills he wished now to introduce. Premising that his intention was to confine this process to England, he explained the manner in which he proposed to deal with the statutes not of a public and general nature, and with revenue acts and other classes of legislation, he proceeded to consider what should be done with respect to future and current legislation. He assumed that there must be some officer or board authorised by both Houses of Parliament to watch over and superintend all bills for amending and improving the law, so as to make it consist and harmonise with the consolidated law, and he thought it would be easy to devise a modus operandi by which the end might be effected.

The motion was seconded by Lord STANLEY, and after various members had spoken, leave was given to introduce the measure.

THE IRISH JUDICIAL BENCH.

Sir JOHN SHELLEY moved for returns calculated to show the manner in which the Irish judges had performed their duties. Sir John seemed to be of opinion that three of these judges were retaining their position, although the infirmities of age were preventing them from discharging their duties with efficiency and regularity. The Irish judges had reached the venerable ages of 82, 84, and 85. It was allowed on all hands that the oldest of the three (Mr. Baron Pennefather) discharged his duties with wonderful activity; but it was equally true that he was labouring under partial blindness. These learned and aged persons were entitled to large pensions on retirement, and to him (Sir J. Shelley) it was quite inexplicable that they did not avail themselves of the advantage.

After a pause, Mr. NAPIER, with some warmth and emotion, complained of the silence of the Government, and defended the judges named by Sir J. Shelley against what he considered to be an unjust and groundless attack, and a blow aimed at the independence of judges.

Sir G. GREY vindicated the right of the House to entertain questions of this kind, and justified the course pursued by the Government in the matter. He stated the substance of a correspondence which had taken place between himself and the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, who, while doing justice to the character and abilities of Baron Pennefather, admitted that, owing to his being permanently afflicted with the infirmity of blindness, the continuance of that learned judge upon the bench could not be defended by the Government; adding that an intimation to that effect had been communicated by the Lord Chancellor to Baron Pennefather, who had returned no answer to the communication.

Mr. DISRAELI considered the speech of Sir G. Grey unsatisfactory, and the conduct of the Government in the matter spiteful. He denied that the proposition of Sir J. Shelley laid any ground for the interference of the House of Commons, which would not sanction imputations upon a judge whose panegyric had been pronounced even by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

After a rather warm and lengthened discussion, in which members on both sides of the House took part, the motion was put, when there appeared for it 132, and against it 121—11. The motion was therefore carried.

Mr. Locke King obtained leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the summary jurisdiction of justices of the peace.

The House then adjourned at half-past 12 o'clock.

MOVEMENTS OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

"PARIS, Feb. 14. Count Buol is expected at Paris this evening or tomorrow morning. Count Cavour arrived at Lyons to-day, which place he was to leave immediately for Paris. Ali Pacha left Constantinople the day before yesterday. It is thought he cannot arrive at Paris before the 22nd inst.

"It is supposed that the Conferences will not open before Thursday next." The Earl of Clarendon had fixed this morning (Saturday), for his departure for the French capital.

RUSSIAN MOVEMENTS IN ASIA.

ADVICES from Trebizond of the 28th of January state that the Russians have evacuated part of Turkish Armenia and retired to Erivan.

DESTRUCTION OF ENGLISH BARRACKS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—A fire occurred on the 4th of this month, in the barracks at Constantinople, occupied by a detachment of the 13th English Dragoons. The building, with the arms and accoutrements it contained, was totally destroyed, but no lives were lost.

DESTRUCTION OF THE PAVILION THEATRE BY FIRE.—About seven o'clock on Wednesday morning, a fire broke out at the Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel Road, which resulted in the total destruction of the entire building.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON, K.G. G.C.B.

THE announcement at the opening of Parliament, that our Minister for Foreign Affairs would appear on behalf of England at the approaching Peace Conferences at Paris, brings him prominently before the public. We deem the occasion fitting to illustrate our pages with a portrait of a statesman so distinguished, and to sketch his career with that impartiality which we profess in treating of political characters.

When Earl Grey was First Minister of the Crown, and the Marquis of Anglesey enacted the part of Viceroy of Ireland, there might have been met about Dublin a gentleman of thirty-three, or thereabouts, with fair hair, pale and delicate features, an elegant air, and a tall, slight figure. He was dressed with particular care; his look was decidedly intellectual, and

of them to eminence, it is unnecessary to inquire. Peerage-mongers, indeed, with their readiness to assign long pedigrees to all who have titles and estates, make their progenitors come in with the Conqueror. Possibly, say we, though we are inclined to doubt the fact: but, at all events, it is sufficient for our present purpose to state, that about the middle of last century, a younger son of an Earl of Jersey married a daughter of the house of Capel, whose mother was heiress of the Hyds; that this scion of the house of Villiers was created Earl of Clarendon, that he was blessed with three sons, that the third of these married a sister of the Earl of Morley, and that their eldest son, George William Frederick Villiers, was born in the month of May, 1800.

The ability, intelligence, industry, activity of mind, and knowledge of

quently nominated Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He continued a member of the Ministry, till the general election of 1841 placed Sir R. Peel in power.

But in 1846, when a change had been produced in public opinion, and the corn-laws, to which he had been always opposed, were repealed, and a new Whig Cabinet was constructed under the auspices of Lord J. Russell, Lord Clarendon was appointed President of the Board of Trade, and occupied that post till, on the death of Lord Besborough, he was sent to Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant. He entered on his viceregal functions under most difficult circumstances, which, doubtless, our readers well remember; and his administration cannot be regarded as, in all respects, successful. The Birch affair had, to use the mildest phrase, an awkward



THE EARL OF CLARENDON, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND BRITISH PLENIPOTENTIARY TO THE PEACE CONFERENCES AT PARIS.

h's voice was pleasingly modulated and insinuating. His whole appearance was aristocratic, in the modern acceptance of the term; he must have known, by indications not to be mistaken, that he was decidedly in favour with the gentler sex; and we will even venture to believe that he was not altogether insensible to their charms. Strangers, on inquiry, were informed that this interesting individual was the heir-presumptive to the Earldom of Clarendon, but meanwhile holding office as a Commissioner of Customs, and exercising no inconsiderable influence over the then Lord-Lieutenant and the affairs of Ireland.

The family to which this individual belonged was very aristocratic, without being decidedly patrician. What was the importance of a Villiers, before the hereditary weakness of James the First for favourites raised one

detail evinced by Mr. Villiers, in Dublin, while a Commissioner of Customs, recommended him to the Government; and when matters in Spain looked serious, he was sent as Envoy-Extraordinary and Minister-Plenipotentiary to the Court of Madrid. There he managed matters so well, as, while giving high satisfaction to the English Ministry, to acquire at the same time much popularity among the inhabitants of the Spanish capital. However, on the death of his paternal uncle in 1838, he returned to England, was decorated with the Cross of the Bath, took his seat in the House of Lords as the fourth Earl of Clarendon, and soon after made a speech on Spanish affairs, which marked him out as a man of more than ordinary talent. Accordingly, when, in 1839, Lord Melbourne's Cabinet was getting "shaky," he was entrusted with the Privy Seal, and subse-

look; and some of the Lord-Lieutenant's political foes even went the length of charging him with creating that rebellion, which his friends gave him so much credit for putting down. When Lord Derby assumed the reins of power, there was, of course, a change in the Irish Government, and the Earl of Eglintoun was installed in the Castle of Dublin.

But when another change was effected, and the Derby Cabinet had ceased to exist, and all eyes were in the air for the Earl of Aberdeen and his colleagues, Lord Clarendon consented to give the coalition the benefit of his experience, and take the seals of the foreign department; and he has since discharged the duties of his office with an ability so conspicuous as to be recognised by political opponents. Indeed, no higher compliment could have been paid to Lord Clarendon's fulfilment of his duties, than

when Lord Derby, in the course of his efforts to form a government, last spring, stated that it would be of immense advantage to the country to retain the services of such a Minister, and that, could he have formed an administration capable of carrying on the Russian war with vigour, he should not have hesitated to request Lord Clarendon to retain the post he had up to that time occupied with so much credit and distinction. The Noble Plenipotentiary, in fact, is perfectly conversant with the whole diplomacy of the last few years, and with the feelings and views of the various Courts of Europe. He is, moreover, a man whose address, perception, and powers of insinuation are beyond all question.

There is little danger, we imagine, of the atmosphere of Paris proving so fatal to Lord Clarendon, as the air of Vienna did to Lord J. Russell.

noticed this charge, first, because it was widely circulated; next, because it was believed; and, thirdly, because he was desirous of giving it, on the part of her Majesty's Government, the most unqualified contradiction. However much he might be aware of the war spirit that animated the country, and however much it might be regretted that such vast preparations as had been made should not be turned to account, and made to redound to the enhancement of the military and naval power of England, he was convinced the disappointment would be endured and cordially made, provided it was repaid by a full measure of that peace for which they were fighting. But should those conditions in the end not be accepted by Russia, he believed there was no sacrifice which the people of this country would not make to carry on the war with even greater vigour,

deavouring to bring those negotiations to a successful issue. But any power he might possess would, he felt, be entirely extinguished, if it were thought that he undertook a mission, or was capable of undertaking a mission, with any other object than that of endeavouring honestly and honourably to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion. He should enter on the duties of this mission with a desire for peace, and in the belief that the terms which formed the basis of the negotiations were capable of effecting it. He had the satisfaction of knowing, too, that the feelings of her Majesty's Government in this respect were entirely shared by the Emperor of the French; and it would not, perhaps, be considered presumptuous in him to say that the honourable and straightforward conduct of that sovereign had done much to bring the efforts made towards



VALENTINE'S DAY IN THE OLDEN TIME—CHOOSING A VALENTINE.—(DRAWN BY KENNY MEADOWS.)

but, on the contrary, every reason to hope that he will act in such a manner as to maintain the honour of the nation, which he has the privilege of representing on an occasion that will be memorable in our annals. We are borne out in this view by the language of the speech made by the Noble Lord, in the House of Peers, on the first night of the present Session of Parliament. He then said—"Their Lordships would be aware that throughout the Continent England was accused of insincerity in consenting to the terms she had, and it was said that although she had consented to them, she meant, nevertheless, to continue the war, not because she had any definite object in view in doing so, but because another campaign would be productive of a more abundant harvest of military glory, which would compensate her for the sacrifices she had made. He

and then they might expect conditions very different to those to which the Government had now agreed. There was another motive which induced him on the present occasion to allude to these rumours, and he hoped he might allude to it without being accused of impropriety, although there was something personal to himself in it. Her Majesty had been pleased to command that the negotiations on the part of this country to be carried on in Paris should be conducted by him; and however unexpectedly this duty fell upon him, or however incapable he might feel himself to conduct negotiations involving so many difficult questions and such complicated interests, he had felt it his duty to obey her Majesty's commands, and devote the knowledge he might have gained in the office he had now the honour to hold in the service of her Majesty in-

a specific solution to their present position. The Emperor of the French asked for peace, but he would make no peace that was inconsistent with the honour and dignity of France, and, pending the negotiations, he, like her Majesty's Government, was determined that the military and naval preparations should go on not only with uninterrupted, but with increased activity, so that they might be fully prepared to renew the war on the very day that it should be known for certain that the negotiations for peace had failed."

The Earl and Countess of Clarendon will, during the Conferences, reside at the Hotel Bristol, in Paris, which has been engaged for their accommodation. His Lordship will be accompanied by his private secretary, the Hon. Spencer Ponsonby, and by Messrs. C. Spring Rice, John Bid-

well, J. C. Vivian, and Villiers Lister, all of the Foreign Office, and by the Hon. Julian Fane, who is attached to her Majesty's mission at Vienna. Mr. E. Hammond, who, it will be recollected, assisted Lord John Russell on his mission to Vienna last year, and Lord Wodehouse, both Under Secretaries of State, will remain in London, and superintend the business of the Foreign Office during the absence of Lord Clarendon.

The portrait on the preceding page is copied, by permission of Messrs. Colnaghi and Co., from an engraving published by them from the picture painted by F. Grant, R.A.

ST. VALENTINE'S DAY.

Who was St. Valentine? In what kind of society did his parents move? Where was he born and educated? Mention a few noble incidents of his virtuous youth. How did he obtain his strange authority over birds, and cause them invariably to mate on his day? Give some account of what is meant by sending a Valentine, and choosing a Valentine.

Those who particularly care to know who St. Valentine was, will be sorry to hear that very little is known of the history of that sweet-named and eccentric man. There is another party of the same name, who is often mentioned in fairy history as an exceedingly virtuous, well educated, dashing gentleman, who wore gaudy armour and went to Court; but we can scarcely imagine that the two were related. It is, however, true that he had an unfortunate brother, who turned out very wild and never shaved. This brother might in after life have reformed, gone into the church, and been canonised, but this is a mere guess. The dashing Valentine is evidently an entirely different personage to the founder of the "curious customs," for although he is spoken of in the highest terms, as a sober, honest, and industrious man, still he was no saint, because he married a beautiful princess, had a large family of lovely children, and "lived happily all the days of his life," whereas saints, as it is well known, were strictly forbidden entering into the connubial state, and led the most miserable existences it is possible to imagine, keeping up no establishment beyond a damp cave, with a skull or two by way of furniture, preferring cold water at their meals, and seldom taking anything for dinner beyond a few wild fruits at desert time. Besides, the Valentine in the fairy histories is not reported to have taken any interest in the study of ornithology, and it is probable that, beyond chirping to the canary in the parlour, or occasionally talking to the parrot of Madame la Princesse, his lady, he cared nothing about uncooked birds.

Wheatley has endeavoured to explain the origin of the custom of choosing Valentines. In allusion to the subject, he tells us that the saint "was a man of most admirable parts, and so famous for his love and charity, that the custom of choosing Valentines upon his festival took its rise from thence." We don't consider this explanation as at all satisfactory. According to this style of argument, every excessively virtuous man ought to give rise to some peculiar usage. Then why has our dear friend Meeks, as virtuous and good a soul as ever wore gloves, originated no eccentric fashions? He is a man of "most admirable parts." Heaven knows; for he has the handsomest nose in all Gower Street, a thoroughfare at least a mile long! Is he famous for charity? Ask his medical man, who forbade him from going to any more dinners at the London Tavern, because, although his heart is immense, his neck is alarmingly short and apoplectic. Is he famous for love? His first wife's portrait is in the servant's bed-room, the miniature of the second adored one hangs in the nursery, and his third partner is yet living. This, and the two published cases of breach of promise, must be a sufficient answer. Yet there is no Saint Meeks in the Calendar, no customs do honour to his festival, and beyond half a dozen shirts from his maiden sister, and an extra bottle of port after dinner, his birthday passes by unnoticed. Therefore we hold that Wheatley's explanation is ridiculous, and that Valentine's virtues did not give rise to Valentine choosing.

If we were asked our own private opinion of the history of St. Valentine, we should say that it ought to be something like the following sketch:— Valentine we should take to have been the only and beloved son of an industrious bird-fancier, residing in Broad Street, Holborn, and who at an early age, gave strong evidence of future greatness. Scarcely was he nine years old, when the idea of his first great discovery entered his mind. As he was seated in his parent's humble, but clean shop, his sensitive heart was struck with compassion for the solitary imprisonment to which pretty birds around him were for their short singing existence condemned. Inspired by mercy, he inwardly exclaimed, "Why should they be separated?" That very night his resolves were taken, and within a week the first breeding cage the world ever beheld was ready for immediate occupation! The speculation was successful. The poor bird-fancier became a man of wealth, and his gentle son entered the church.

We next find Valentine grown to be a benevolent, strong-minded man, officiating as under-clerk at Lambeth Church. The numerous marriages that each Sunday were celebrated in that sacred edifice, pleased and delighted his generous nature. Speaking to a dear friend on this subject, he said, "I like this union of heart to heart—this coupling of love to love." These sentiments never quitted him, and no doubt influenced his after fate; for a few years later, we trace him on the road of life to the north of England, where he held the romantic and lucrative post of priest at Gretna Green. It has been said that he was the inventor of runaway matches; but this requires proof.

Valentine had but one enemy—a man in the employ of Government as a letter-carrier. This fellow carried his impertinence to such a height, that at last punishment became inevitable, and "Valentines" were originated. In one day no less than half a million of letters passed through the post-office for delivery in London alone. The revenge was glorious and complete. The injured man had the satisfaction of beholding his enemy sinking with fatigue from excessive toil, his shoes worn from his feet, and his hands blistered with knocking.

When dying, Valentine called his friends around him, and begged of them to institute some curious customs in honour of his spotless life. His weeping admirers readily assented.

Among his papers was found his will, but all it contained was a request that on his tombstone might be engraved these words:—"He was unmarried himself, but the cause of marriage in others."

Owing to a want of funds, this last injunction was not complied with.

Of course we do not pretend to have given a correct history of the life of this popular saint. We found all the antiquarians quarrelling amongst themselves, each one endeavouring to account for the institution of this and that custom; so, as they could not assist us, we thought the best way was to assist them by giving to the world an entirely new version of why St. Valentine presides over the mating of birds, the sending of love letters, and the over-working of postmen.

The 14th of February is, it appears to us, slipping by very quietly this year; perhaps it is because we have given up sending valentines, that we fancy the custom to be going out. There was an old gentleman who, in the year 1645, observed that "The custom and charge of valentines is not ill left, with many other such costly and idle customs, which by a tacit general consent were lay down as obsolete;" and yet the "custom" survived him, you see, and went on getting more and more popular, and no doubt is even now in great favour in parts of England we know nothing of. We don't think the young fellows in Norfolk likely to let the "custom" perish, for there it has more to do with money than love, and it is astonishing how human nature will cling to a habit when there is a shilling or two to be made by it. In that high feeding county, the children "catch" people for valentines, always taking care to run after those who are likely to be liberal. The mode of catching is by saying, "Good morning, Valentine," and if they can repeat this before they are spoken to, they expect to see the hand go down into the pocket and come up again with a sixpence between the fingers. It must be done, however, before sunrise, otherwise, instead of receiving a sixpence, they are told they are *sun-burnt*, and perhaps get a box on the ears. The prudent arrangement of stopping this sort of fun after sunrise, enables a vast number of late rising persons to keep their money safely in their purses.

Mr. Meadows has chosen for his illustration the ceremony which a long time ago took place on St. Valentine's Eve. Those ladies and gentlemen are drawing lots to discover who is to be his or her Valentine. From their expressions, we should say that before the year is out two or three

wedding rings will be purchased in the village. That young lady choosing from the hat would not, if we are any judge of shy looks, refuse a reasonable offer. There are a couple in the back-ground evidently arranging matters very cosily. The young gentleman appears to be inquiring at what hour it would be most convenient for him to call upon mamma and talk the subject over. We experience, as we look upon the drawing, a feeling of deep regret that the style of dress worn in Charles the Second's time, should have gone out, and a deeper and more bitter sorrow that such meetings as the happy one represented, do not oftener take place in the present day. Heavens! are our hearts to be for ever chilled, and our hopes to be for ever blighted! Why cannot we live through ages of picture scenes and be ever happy, wealthy, and convalescent?

A good-natured gentleman, of the name of Misson, who lived about two centuries ago, says of St. Valentine's day, that it is "a time when all living nature inclines to couple, and the young folks in England, and Scotland too, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival that tends to the same end. An equal number of maids and bachelors get together, each writes their true, or some feigned, name upon separate billets, which they roll up and draw by way of lots, the men taking the maid's billets, so that each of the young men lights upon a girl that he calls his Valentine. Fortune having thus divided the company into so many couples, the Valentines give balls and treats to their mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms or sleeves, and this little sport often ends in love."

In those days when Valentine, choosing was regarded as a serious affair, learned discussions often took place as to how it was right and proper that the ceremony should be conducted. In the "British Apollo," a gentleman, meanly inclined, asks this question, "In choosing Valentines, is not the party choosing to make a present to the party chosen?" His hopes of obtaining an answer to the contrary effect are, however, destroyed by the upright manly reply of the editor, who, not having to pay the money, takes the side of the ladies, and declares, that "the gentlemen only ought to make presents." The "learned" Moresin, a very clever old fellow, who has been kind enough to tell us an immense number of curious things, says, that at this festival (St. Valentine's) the men used to make the women presents; but that presents were made reciprocally in Scotland. The smitten swain would present his loved one with sixpence, and then borrow it back again.

Some of the young ladies employed desperate methods of divination to discover who was to be their Valentine. Some wrote their lover's names upon bits of paper, and rolled them up in clay, and put them into water, and the first that rose to the surface was to be the lucky fellow. Other maidens had recourse to a more disagreeable plan; they boiled an egg hard and took out the yolk, and filled it with salt. This the poor victim of love eat, shell and all, without speaking or drinking after it. Such devotion is alarmingly lovely.

Ah, how have we degenerated! It makes the heart ache to read of these wonderful doings, and then to turn to our present ways and habits. What is St. Valentine's Day now? Look at yonder hardware shop; its glass panes are filled with penny drawings, all of them insulting in design and execution. How coarsely are they coloured. Notice the red dabs in the cheeks and nose of that washerwoman—see the gin-bottle next the tub. Alas! where are the gallant meetings of the days of Charles the Second? What kind of poetry is this to send in an unpaid letter, and make an unhappy woman pay twopence for—

"Come, scrub away, dear Betty Suds,
At napkin, shift, and shirt;
No one, I'm sure, with you can vie
In getting out the dirt;
But that vile practice, drinking gin,
You really must resign,
Or else you never can expect
To be my Valentine."

Here is another drawing, representing a gentleman airing himself in Regent Street. He has only four teeth, and eyes pointed like cannon against his nose—

"A picture of yourself I send,
Besides a splendid new rope's end;
You jolter-headed, stupid elf,
Talk not of love! go, hang yourself!"

Most likely some poor youth will be roused from his morning's slumbers to read this insult. Dear! dear! what is the world coming to.

A diabolical attempt upon the form of a female cook, makes us tremble for the nation's morality. The figure holds a spit and a basting-ladle. Perhaps a poor, hardworking female, with a six years' character from everybody, will open this very letter, filled with delight at fancying she has received news from home. She will tremble as she reads—

"Bandy legged, and pigeon-toed!
You ugly, squinting, snub-nosed toad!
Such a hideous thing as thee
My Valentine shall never be."

That day the parlour dinner will be spoilt. Let us rush away, and hurry over to the stationer's, where the lace-edged note paper and the silver doves resting on red satin roses, will soothe our ruffled feelings. This is polite and as it should be. But how expensive are the higher emotions! The insults were only a penny each; here you cannot touch a temple of love under a shilling. The poetry is simple, natural, and to the point.

"If you will be mine,
I will be thine;
So answer 'yes' my Valentine."

That's business-like, even though it is not worthy of the poet laureate. Everything depends upon how the words are spoken, and how could they be wanting in the finest expression when read off such superb satin note paper, with such richly embossed edges, and such a golden chariot, drawn by doves perched up at the top!

A lady has just entered the shop. She is evidently young and beautiful; and carries a well-filled purse in her hand. Ah! that we could meet again, like those happy beings in Mr. Kenny Meadows's drawing. For thy sake we would even undergo the ordeal of the hard-boiled egg filled with salt, and eat it shell and all without drinking!

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CAMBRIDGE.—The poll was opened by the Vice-Chancellor, with the usual formalities, on Thursday, the 7th instant. Among the first votes recorded was that of the Hon. G. Denman in favour of his opponent, the Right Hon. S. Walpole. Mr. Walpole soon returned this compliment by voting for Mr. Denman. The election was virtually finished on Saturday evening, when the poll presented the following numbers:—Walpole, 886; Denman, 419. Immediately a consultation took place between Mr. Denman and the most influential members of his committee, the result of which was his retirement from the contest.

MIDHURST.—Samuel Warren, Esq., Q.C., and Recorder of Hull, has been duly elected to represent Midhurst, in the room of Mr. Walpole, returned for the University of Cambridge.

TAMWORTH.—The election of a representative for this borough, in the room of the present Marquis of Townsend, took place last week. The only candidate was Lord Raynham, the son of the late member, who was returned without opposition.

ROCHESTER.—The nomination of Mr. Bodkin and Mr. Martin took place on the 7th, and the poll commenced next day, when the latter gentleman was elected by a majority of 58.

EDINBURGH.—Mr. Adam Black, the Whig candidate, was, on the 8th instant, returned by a majority of 643 over his opponent, Mr. Brown Douglas, the numbers being for Mr. Black 2,439, and for Mr. Brown Douglas 1,796.

LEOMINSTER.—Mr. James Campbell, of Grove House, Hendon, has addressed the electors of Leominster on Liberal principles, and Mr. Hampton, a gentleman of influence, is also in the field.

THE LINENDRAFER AND THE MARCHIONESS.—We have previously alluded to the marriage of the Dowager Marchioness of Townshend, aged 70, immediately on the death of the Marquis. Her present husband, Mr. Laidler, who is about 40 years of age, was employed in a linendraper's establishment at the West End, where he attracted the attention of the old Marchioness, who would not be attended to by any other assistant, or even by the principal himself. Nor would she allow any one to bring her purchases to her residence but Mr. Laidler. On the death of her husband, she made him an offer of her hand, which he promptly accepted.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1856.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

SIR CHARLES WOOD is a speaker of such extreme dulness, that people would rather pay his estimates than listen to his defence of them—just as HORNE TOOKE said, that if he were tried again for treason he should plead guilty, for that he had rather be hanged than listen to the Crown lawyer for nine hours. We have read Sir CHARLES's speech, and shall try and explain our naval position. People are inclined to be kindly and liberal in naval matters. The sea is our best friend. The first article in every Englishman's creed says Lord HALIFAX, should be that he believes in the sea. England, he adds, "hath her root in the sea." Lord HALIFAX was a man of parts, and what he said is as true in our time, as it was in CHARLES the SECOND's.

The excess of expenditure beyond the vote of last year is £204,982. To this the House has agreed. The House was next asked for a war estimate, and of this it would be absurd to complain. Peace is not certain, and the mischief of not being ready for war, if required, would be far beyond money calculations. Wood, therefore, went through vote after vote on the assumption that we must be prepared for war, if necessary, and rolled out sum after sum, item after item, in a way to make very peaceable gentlemen shudder. Let us look at one or two details of our expenditure, that we may know what our payments really are.

We begin with coals. For coals, Sir CHARLES charges us three millions. "I need scarcely observe that the introduction of steam is causing a complete revolution in the mechanism of the navy." And he added, that "a screw ship costs to a sailing vessel as three to two." We can guess at our frightful expenses when we remember that every ship is now a screw ship, almost. Some men are of opinion that this system will change our whole naval character in time, i.e., our nautical or seamanlike character. Already we miss the old *dash* which distinguished the fellows who lived under canvas, and never breathed any smoke but that of gunpowder. However, steam we must have, and must keep up our spirits amidst the new machinery as we did amidst the old; only, transition times are always uneasy ones.

The "Transport" charge amounts to some six millions, to more than it was last year, for we underrated, it seems, every expense. This vote shows us what war costs. The total number of "troops moved" within the year was 294,000.

There is an increase in the "half-pay" vote. This arises from the promotions which war causes. A hundred lieutenant were promoted last year to be commanders. We must, therefore, expect to have an immense batch of gentlemen at leisure to pay for—peace or no peace. However, the promotions clear the way so far, and plenty of adventurous youngsters (the best class), have no doubt entered since the war began. If we pay for coals we must not grudge money for gentlemen. While on this point—Wood defended two "good service pensions," one to a KEPPEL, one to a PAGET, impugned by a speaker. As to the KEPPEL one, we agree with him. All naval men respect and like this officer, who is of the breed of Admiral KEPPEL, whose popularity is still testified by the good old evidence of public-house signs. As to the PAGET one, we do not agree. Lord CLARENCE PAGET has been constantly employed—luckily for him; but doing one's duty is not ground enough for a pension properly due to distinguished services. He is a very ordinary individual, like most gentlemen of the families which we owe to the Reformation! The curse of the Church sticks to the posterity of its spoilers, and keeps them greedy and dull. While on this item, also, Wood entered into details about the state of the active list and certain increases of retiring pensions. The fact is, we are obliged to hustle a great many men into the half-pay list, whether they like it or no; and, of course, the country does not want to pay for more "active" men than it wants. But, of course, also, Admiralties keep their friends afloat, and send those who have no friends on shore. The country must not shirk its share of the blame. While the middle classes traffic their votes for places, and the lower ones cannot help taking money—an administration that is created by corruption will use corruption.

"The fly
That feeds on dung is coloured thereby,"

says GEORGE HERBERT, the poet. And a blue-bottle, like Wood, who, if he had not wealth, would find himself the butt of mankind, can, of course, see no merit apart from the merit of property and connection, which is his own only one. He bears the colour of his creation and circumstances.

We are glad to learn that "if peace is not concluded, we shall have about 200 gun-boats of one kind or another ready for service." It is affectionate to ignore the fact that this statement will do more for the cause of peace than all the rhetoric of CLARENCE. Cronstadt must be attacked; we venture to say—will be attacked, if we have to go one more summer to the Baltic.

Some internal changes—not very important, but we think useful—have been made of late in the navy. A new rate of men ranking above A. B. ("able seaman") is established, with a higher rate of pay, twopence a-day more. The "slop" system is improved, that is, the system by which seamen get clothes from Government, which are taken out of their pay. The pay itself is better administered. But we are sorry to see that the Naval Coast Volunteers' plan is a comparative failure. The explanation we believe to be, that the class of men aimed at (fishermen, boatmen, &c., for a kind of reserved guard) are generally married men with families, who cannot afford to leave their work for the terms proposed. The number of boys entered last year shows an increase from 2,000 to 10,000. This fact we observe with pleasure. A man-of-war bred boy will always be better for men-of-war than merchant seamen, in some important points—though now-a-days our big ships are too much in harbour, and the real sailor-boy is not appealed to so effectually as by the temptation of adventure.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

THE MASTERY arrived at Buckingham Palace on Monday afternoon from Windsor Castle.

MR. RUSSELL AND CO., who are building the monster steamship of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, have suspended payment, their liabilities amounting to £120,000.

MR. JOHN RUSSELL has appointed a female clerk to the State Paper Office—she is married with four children.

A HOUSE FAIR will, in future, be held every Wednesday in the camp before Sebastopol, for the convenience of officers, and a sergeant has been appointed to act as auctioneer.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR J. BURGESS has been honoured with a Baronetcy, in consideration of his services at the siege of Sebastopol.

R. H. HORSF, the author of "Orion," is now engaged as chief clerk to Mr. Mellor, the popular barrister in Australia.

SCOTCHMEN are feeling dissatisfied with Mr. James Hope Scott, the heir of Sir Walter, for having added a Roman Catholic chapel to the buildings at Abbotsford.

LORD CLARENDON, in answer to some Glasgow citizens who have been recently decorated with the order of the Legion of Honour, expresses his regret that permission to wear these decorations in this country cannot be allowed.

GENERAL D'ALBA MARMORA left Paris for Turin, last week, and will soon resume the command of the Sardinian army.

AN INSURRECTION has broken out at Damamhoor, near Cairo, and the Pedulus, on the subject of some recent enrolments of the Militia.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has consented to become an Honorary Member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.

MR. CALED, it is said, will apply £700 (the profit from 60,000 copies of his edition of "Religion in Common Life," already sold), to the endowment of the "Females' Industrial School," in the parish of Errol, of which he is incumbent.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA has ordered a mourning of nine days throughout the Kingdom of Poland for Prince Paskewitch.

THE MARCHIONESS TURBOT, wife of the French Ambassador at Madrid, is spoken of as the probable governess to the imperial infant, shortly expected to be born at the Tuileries.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND have repeated their liberality in going to every clerk in the establishment a bonus of £10 per cent. on his salary for the past year.

M. XENOS, Greek Consul at Smyrna, has been dismissed on a charge of serious mismanagement, and locked up at Medresé.

MR. G. H. MOORE, M.P., has announced his intention to ask leave to introduce a bill on front-right into the House of Commons on Tuesday next.

SISTER ROSALIE, a sister of charity, who has been known for her good works in Paris for the last 50 years, and whose reputation is European, died on Saturday last.

A NURSE, in the shape of a very pretty peasant woman of Normandy, has been introduced at the Tuileries.

MR. GEORGE CRICKSHANK is painting a picture of the incident of "Bayoneting a Russian" (an engraving of which appeared in our last week's number), for an English officer who witnessed the circumstance.

LIEUTENANT LOUIS GENESTE, who will be remembered in connection with the Hango affair, has hoisted his pennant on board, and taken the command of the *Béna bot Hering*, now fitting out in the Woolwich basin.

AN ENGLISHMAN named Hamilton, is reported to have been arrested at Constantinople, on the charge of being implicated in the late insurrection at Tripoli.

TWO SUBSTANTIALLY built and finely modelled wooden gun-boats, the *Beacon* and the *Brave*, of about 223 tons each, were, on Monday, launched from the building yard of Mr. John Laird, on the border of the Great Ouse, at Burgh.

MR. SANDWITH was last week entertained at a public breakfast, at Hull, when nearly 200 of the principal inhabitants assembled to congratulate him on his return from Kars.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has under consideration the propriety of allowing Russian journals to enter France without restriction—their tone being decidedly pacific.

THE BELLS OF ST. GEORGE'S AND ST. JOHN'S CHURCHES, Windsor, were, on Sunday last, rung merrily in honour of the 16th anniversary of the Queen's Marriage.

BIGADIER-GENERAL WILLIAM WILLIAMS, the hero of Kars, has been promoted to the rank of Knight Commander of the Bath.

THE ARREST at Berlin of a banker named Meyer, has created much sensation, as "many ladies of high rank are peculiarly compromised in the operations which provoked the measure."

MR. JAMES FERGUSON, F.R.S., &c., has been elected to the office of general manager of the Crystal Palace.

THE GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS have chartered the *Sultana*, to take out emigrants to Sydney from Southampton on the 10th of March next.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA will, it is said, be invited to stand sponsor to the heir of the Emperor of the French, in person.

THE "HERALD" states that, in consequence of the probability of peace, an order has been issued prohibiting naval officers from wearing moustaches while on full pay.

COLONEL TURN, who has been so much talked about lately, did not obtain his pardon until after he had been tried by the court-martial of Carlsburg, and condemned to death.

THE REV. DR. NEWMAN, rector of the Catholic University of Dublin, is at present in Rome, and Dr. Manning was also expected there to preach during Lent in the English in the church of Saint Andrew delle Fratte.

A SENTIMENTAL YANKEE GREENGROCER in the "far West," advertises "Something to weep over—fifty bushels prime Onions, at Jarvis' Grocery Store."

THE HOTEL CLUNY, Paris, has just received into its museum one of the trophies taken by the French army of the East—the cross with four branches, and six feet in height, belonging to the church of St. Vladimir, at Sebastopol.

GENERAL SIR COLIN CAMPBELL arrived at Malta on the 1st, by the French packet the *Thabor*, from Marseilles, and proceeded to the East in the same vessel the day after.

THE CZAR has ordered the navy to be decorated with the medal instituted by ukase, on Nov. 27, 1855, for the land forces, which will also be awarded to all those inhabitants of Sebastopol, including even women, who took part in its defence.

THE RUSSIAN "Gazette du Commerce," announces the formation of a company for furnishing the Lower Dnieper with steam navigation, from Alexandroff to the mouth of the river in the Black Sea.

THE SANTAL REBELLION was, by the last accounts, over.

MR. JUSTICE CRAMPTON has decided that an insolvent leaving the court with an order of protection, cannot be arrested on his way home.

THE "MONITEUR" contains a report to the Emperor Napoleon, by the Minister of the Interior, which appears to reinforce an admonition to the Senate, recently published in the official journal, and at the same time to aggrandise the Councils General.

A GREAT FIRE took place at Rangoon on the 10th of December, and caused a loss of £300,000.

THE "INVALIDE Russe" of the 2nd, appears with a deep black border, and, after announcing the death of Prince Paskewitch, passes a high panegyric on the deceased officer for his great services to Russia.

GENERAL GORTSCHAKOFF is said to have almost daily interviews with the Grand Duke Constantine; and his accounts from the Crimea have made a deep impression on the Court.

THE SHIPPOWERS of the North are taking measures to resist the passing of the bill brought in by Mr. Lowe, for the abolition of local burdens upon shipping.

NEW YORK HARBOR and the North and East Rivers were, on the 29th ult., filled with huge masses of floating ice, and navigation for sailing vessels was suspended.

THALBERG has recently given several concerts at the Lisbon Theatre with immense success, one of which was honoured by the presence of the King of Portugal and his Ministers of State.

THE GRAND DUC DE TUSCANY has ordered a new levy of 2,000 men of the class of 1857.

THE TAX has been taken out to the Brazils, £70,070 in specie, besides £23,700 in jewellery.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA, having resolved to get a building erected at Jerusalem for Roman Catholic pilgrims of Austria, has obtained permission from the Porte to purchase the land necessary.

GENERAL LEBEUF, commanding the Artillery of the 1st Corps of the French army of the East, has been nominated to the command of the Artillery of the Imperial Guard.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Wensleydale peerage, and the report of Sir J. McNeill and Col. Tulloch—these are the topics of the day in political circles. It is long since the House of Peers has been so excited as it is upon both these questions. Upon the first all our hereditary legislators are up in arms, Lord Derby, the "Rupert of debate," the "fourteenth in unbroken succession," &c., led the van, and was warmly supported by the legal trio—Brougham, Lyndhurst and St. Leonards. Lord Lyndhurst made a long, and considering his time of life, a wonderfully eloquent speech. Why this excitement? It is undoubtedly desirable to have more law lords in the House, although the law lords, none of whom are under seventy years of age, think that there are enough already; and is it not much better to avail ourselves of the talent of a first-rate man (giving him his position as a *quid pro quo*) rather than bind ourselves to be legislated for by his offspring, who may be fools, or worse? If men of genius, the sons will have a fair chance of creating honours for themselves, but do not let us bind ourselves to accept the decrees of such Solons as the present Duke of Wellington, simply because their fathers served their country well. The above-named illustrious senator has, it is said, resigned his appointment as Master of the Horse, in consequence of his feelings on the life peerage question. He is right; had not his honours come upon him by descent, most certainly he would never have enjoyed them, and the country will continue to stagger on even though so responsible a situation be vacated by so talented a man.

The report of Sir J. McNeill and Colonel Tulloch shows us two of these noble hereditary peers in a favourable light. It is not too much to say that had Lords Lucan and Cardigan belonged to the army of any other country but England, and had such changes been proved against them by Government Commissioners, they would have been shot; had they been non-commissioned officers or privates in our own army, and been guilty of comparatively similar neglect, they would have been flogged. But being, as they are, hereditary legislators, and distinguished ornaments of that noble body whose principal characteristics are pride and gout, they are patted on the back by War Secretaries, laden with honours, and bid to sneer at the puerile attacks of those whose fathers, sons, and brothers have been sacrificed by their incompetency or neglect.

The institution of the "Victoria Cross" is a step in the right direction. Conspicuous valour shown in the presence of the enemy is to constitute the claim for it: this is scarcely sufficient. The surgeon (shame be on me, I forget his name!) who, with his servant, stayed behind and attended hundreds of Russian prisoners, would not have been entitled to the Victoria Cross, though, Heaven knows, he deserved it more than others with whom brute courage is simply natural. We want something yet, some order like the Legion of Honour, with which distinguished civilians, literary men, artists, &c., may be honoured and decorated. The effect of our alliance with France is likely to operate in many ways which could scarcely have been anticipated. The Omnibus Company is now firmly established, and although several of the lines of route have not yet been made over to the new proprietors, the receipts from such as are already in operation under foreign conduct are highly satisfactory. Within the last few days, however, a most extraordinary rumour has become current, to the effect that a French Fire Insurance Company, called "La France," has opened an agency in London, and is establishing branch agencies at Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and other important English towns for the purpose of granting policies upon property at less than half the rates now paid upon ordinary risks. They contend that they will be able to do this, on the ground that their policies, being issued in Paris, will not be liable to the Government duty, which in this country amounts to 200 per cent. The question has been considered by several of the most eminent lawyers of the day, who, of course, are divided upon its merits; but so true is it, and so far have the French Company advanced, that the managers of the Unity Insurance have memorialised the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and begged for a revision of the law on the question.

I last week sent you some art gossip about Mr. Millais. I now hear that the next in rank of the Pre-Raphaelite brethren, Mr. Holman Hunt, the painter of that extraordinary picture, "The Light of the world," which was exhibited two years ago, has returned in safety from a lengthened tour in Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Land. Mr. Hunt has occupied the entire period of his absence in sketching Oriental life; and a sacred subject, painted in the Holy City itself, will be exhibited this season at the Academy. The Crimea and Constantinople have also been visited by Mr. Hunt. Ah! one more rumour, more wonderful than all! It is said Mr. Ruskin is going to be married!

Mr. Special-Correspondent Russell (as the Germans would call him,) has had a very merry, but a very short *congé*. On Saturday the 16th, the day on which this will be in your readers' hands, he starts again for the Crimea. During his absence his place has been supplied by a Mr. Hardman, an occasional contributor to "Blackwood," who, during his sojourn has experienced some of the *agremens* of campaigning life, having had the roof of his hut blown off, and suffered from a sharp rheumatic attack in consequence.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

GERTRUDE.*—EVELYN FORESTER.†—ENQUIRE WITHIN.‡—THE ODES, OF HORACE.§—TREASURES IN NEEDLEWORK.¶—NEW MUSIC.

It is time that some severely virtuous, or at all events bold critic, should stand forward and tell the public the truth about Mrs. Trollope and her writings. I say it in no sneering spirit; but when a lady knows that she has a market for all her productions, and when, as regularly as clock-work, she produces two novels annually, the system should be exposed, and held up to reprobation as a vicious one. It is not to be denied, that in her earlier writings—to wit, "The Barnabys" and "The Vicar of Wrexhill"—Mrs. Trollope displayed much power of observation and description, always marred by natural coarseness and striving after effect. In the lapse of years, the powers of observation and description have worn out; though the coarseness and forced writing have proportionately increased. The last production, "Gertrude," is almost beneath criticism; it is a twaddling, exaggerated, sentimental German story, without point or interest; the characters are unnatural, the descriptions tame, the prevailing tone dreary in the extreme.

Miss Marguerite Power, the authoress of "Evelyn Forester," has written a "pretty" novel—nice, readable, sufficient to while away a couple of dull hours in a country-house, or at the sea-side, but not calculated to cause one to put off the usual hour for bed on account of the interest excited by it.

"Enquire within" is really a most extraordinary collection of receipts for everything that can be requisite for domestic purposes. Glancing through its pages, I am told how to "remove ink-stains from silver," and what is "Parisian etiquette," what to do for a "dry cough," and where to punctuate my writing. The volume is neatly got up, and the pages are surrounded with choice aphorism on the Poor Richard principle.

One book has come before me this week which I must confess my incompetency to deal with in a true technical spirit. I allude to the "Treasures in Needlework," by Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Pullen. How much I regret that, in addition to my other accomplishments, I cannot lay claim to a thorough knowledge of knitting and crochet, so that I might be able to say something sensible respecting subjects of such intense interest to all your fair readers. I notice that the volume opens with a very pretty list of "presents for gentlemen," comprising braces, cigar-cases, smoking-caps, shaving-books, &c. The lady writers of "Treasures in Needlework" appear not to be advocates of the moustache movement, for they speak emphatically of the last-mentioned articles as being *very useful*. They do not object to smoking, however, if I may judge by the cigar-cases and smoking-caps, which occupy a prominent place in their rôle. The volume is neatly illustrated, well printed, elegantly bound, and marvellously cheap. If, Sir, any of your fair readers who do me the honour to peruse my weekly contribution to the "Illustrated Times," will test the accuracy of the descriptions in the "Treasures of Needlework," and will forward the result, in the shape of a handsome pair of braces or slippers—addressed, mind, to

* Hurst and Blackett. † Routledge and Co. ‡ Houlston and Stoneman. § Longman and Co. ¶ Ward and Lock.

"THE LOUNGER,"—I shall have much pleasure, on a future occasion, of bearing more positive testimony to the merits of Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Pullen's interesting volume.

Mr. H. G. Robinson, whose admirable metrical translations of the first and second books of the Odes of Horace met with such general praise, has now published a second volume, containing a translation of the third book of the Odes. Not only is Mr. Robinson's rendering of the original exceedingly close, but his powers of versification are beyond the ordinary translator's stand, and many of them would read as good original poems.

Of music lately published I speak in the praise of a very pretty Schottische, "Break of Day," and of a nice ballad, "The Deep Holm Lane," published by Duff and Hodgson. I must also commend a series of Sacred Songs, and a "Dramatic Scene," published by Jewell and Letchford.

Two professedly comic songs, "I met him on a Monday," and "Hard Times," are simply dull and solemn nonsense, without either words or music to recommend them.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

OLYMPIC—ADELPHI—ASTLEY'S—THE OIL OF ODDITIES—JENNY LIND AT HANOVER SQUARE.

WHILE the French dramatists have for the last few years been endeavouring to take a moral turn, and to inculcate into their audiences a fact to Parisians most difficult of belief, that, after undergoing the marriage ceremony, a man does not necessarily lose all his sense nor a woman her purity, the gentlemen who, by the aid of Boyer's French-English dictionary "enter for the amusement" of the British public, still stick pertinaciously to the old farce, full of intrigue and imbroglia, which, for so many years, under so many different phases, has been *rechauffé* for our edification. "Stay at Home," the new production at the Olympic, is the second Anglicised version of "*Un Mari qui se dérange*," the first having been played at the Haymarket some time since under the title of "Ranelagh." In the delectable affair under notice, Mr. Frank Lauriston (Mr. G. Vining) is a young literary man, fond of flirting, but married to a lady (Miss Fanny Ternan) whose ideas of happiness are centred in conjugal love and domesticity. As a foil to this pair, we find another couple, Dr. and Mrs. Metcalfe (Mr. Emery and Mrs. Stirling), the one uxorious to a degree, the other, with a strange wish to know what jealousy is like. Mr. Lauriston, having pursued a widow lady with whom he is smitten, to Cremorne Gardens (!), is there followed by his wife, who has insisted upon Dr. Metcalfe bringing her thither, and, being masked (!), has an interview with her unsuspecting husband. Mrs. Metcalfe follows, also masked (!), the usual farce imbroglia succeeds, the usual farce explanation ends the piece, and the curtain is rung down to the admonition, "Stay at Home." On calm reflection, is not the production of such a piece as this an insult to the understanding of the audience? If the stage is, in the new and unheeded phrase, to "hold the mirror up to nature," does it here fulfil its function? Do the wives of literary gentlemen and physicians go to Cremorne Gardens? do any of the female visitors to those gardens go there, masked? As well represent a dushman of the present day dressed in cherry-coloured trousers, lounging at Brooks's, or a "swell," in the many-caped coat and pointed hat of the regency. I am told that this translation is from the pen of a gentleman who, under the pseudonym of "Slingsby Laurance," has admirably adapted many French pieces. I can scarcely believe it, and yet, what shall I not credit, when I find such an abortion produced under the auspices of Mr. Wigan, a man who is a gentleman, a scholar, and an enterprising theatrical manager.

Everybody read "The Holly Tree Inn," and everybody selected the "Boots' Story" as the gem of the collection. Admirably adapted for narrative, it was essentially unsuited for stage purposes. It has, nevertheless, been turned into a little drama for the Adelphi, where Mr. Webster plays Cobbs, the Boots, in a most finished and artistic manner. The episode of the children's elopement is introduced, and the juvenile bride and bridegroom are represented by two earnest, sharp little things, whose energy is greater than their knowledge of Lindley Murray. The scenery is excellent, the exterior of the inn, snow-covered and isolated, and the large, draughty, screen-requiring room, being copied with due fidelity from the author's description. This admirable little sketch is above the heads of the average Adelphi audience, accustomed to grimaces and practical jokes. Mr. Webster, however, need not mind its being caviare to the multitude, so thoroughly is it appreciated by those whose praise is worth having. Mr. and Mrs. Keeley have returned to the Adelphi, and made their re-appearance in a thoroughly "screaming" farce, called "That Blessed Baby," from the pen of Mr. Moore, who has kindly provided the public with half an hour's roar.

A visit to Astley's has been likened, by a popular author, to a dinner off roast pig—very nice occasionally. I would recommend any of your readers to choose the present time for paying a visit to the amphitheatre. I was there the other night, and saw a dramatic version of "Rookwood," in which the principal feature was Dick Turpin's ride to York, his mare Black Bess being represented by a singularly well-trained animal. Afterwards, we had capital scenes in the circle, the performance of the elephants (in which these extraordinary creatures obey every command of their keeper, even to ascending apparently thin planks and standing on their heads), and a very good pantomime, in which the equestrian resources of the establishment were largely drawn upon.

I have great pleasure in chronicling the fact, that Mr. Woodin, whose name is well-known as one of the best "entertainers" of the day, gave the thousandth representation of his "Oil of Oddities" on Saturday last.

On Monday evening, Madame Jenny Goldschmidt appeared at her third miscellaneous concert, at the Hanover Square Rooms, before a crowded audience. It is scarcely necessary to say, that she sang all allotted to her admirably; but as for M. Otto Goldschmidt, he is a third-rate pianist, and all the puffings of the press will not raise him from that position. Mr. Swift, an English tenor, sang with a great deal of sweetness and taste. I had heard much of him, and was not disappointed.

LORD WENSLEYDALE.

At the present moment, when Peerages for life are dividing public attention with the Peace Conferences, and the unpleasant position of our relations with America, a portrait and memoir of the eminent legal dignitary, whose elevation to the House of Peers has raised the question as to whether these Peerages are in accordance with the spirit of the British Constitution, will, we believe, be acceptable to our readers generally.

The Right Hon. James Parke, first and (as matters at present stand) possibly last, Lord Wensleydale, is the youngest son of the late Mr. Thomas Parke, of Highfield near Liverpool, who, we believe, was a merchant of that town. His mother was a daughter of the late Mr. William Preston, the representative of an old family settled for some generations on the borders of Yorkshire and Lancashire. He was born in 1782, received his early education at the Grammar School of Macclesfield, whence he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, as a Pensioner, in October, 1799. In the following year he was elected Scholar of his College, and three years later graduated B.A. as Fifth Wrangler and Senior Chancellor's Medalist. Among those who went out in honours at the same time were Dr. Davys, the present Bishop of Peterborough, Professor George Pryme, late M.P. for Cambridge, and the late Mr. Justice Coltman. For some time after taking his degree, Mr. Parke remained in residence in the University, and was elected to an open Fellowship at Trinity College, in the year 1804. He was not called to the bar till some ten years later, his name appearing among those who were called at the Inner Temple, in Easter Term, 1813. "His steady and persevering industry," says the "Times," "here brought him early into notice, and business flowed in upon him with sufficient rapidity to warrant him in vacating his Fellowship at Trinity, by marriage, within four years after he became a member of the Bar." In 1817, he married Cecilia, daughter of the late Samuel F. Barlow, Esq., of Middlelethorp, Yorkshire.

Henceforward, the rise of Mr. Parke was rapid. It does not appear that he rose to the Bench through the intermediate steps of "Serjeant-at-Law," or "King's Serjeant," or one of his Majesty's counsel learned in the law. He never held a seat in Parliament, and conse-

quently never aspired to the stepping-stone post of Attorney or Solicitor General. So far as we can ascertain, he never committed himself to printer's ink, and never even published a volume of "Reports." In 1828, he was promoted from a very lucrative business in his profession as an advocate to a puisne judgeship in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the death of the late Sir George Holroyd, and was transferred from that court to the Exchequer on the death of Baron Taunton, in 1834. As Baron Parke, he gained what few others have gained in recent days—an experience of twenty-eight years on the judicial bench. Possessed of an admirable memory, he was peculiarly a man of precedents. He was no original thinker, no profound genius, no brilliant orator; but a man of facts, and in his facts he was seldom or never wrong. It is just this sound and sober experience and familiarity with "precedents," that will render his presence in the House of Lords of peculiar value, as an assistant to the five "law lords"—viz., Lord Lyndhurst, Lord Brougham, Lord Campbell, Lord Cranworth, and Lord St. Leonard's. No doubt another reason why he was chosen out for a peerage, was because, like Lords Cranworth, Brougham, and Lyndhurst, he had no male issue to succeed him in his title, his only son having died some few years since. We believe that at present he has only one surviving daughter, married to a gentleman in Bedfordshire; two others—Cecilia and Mary, the wives respectively of Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., and the Hon. Mr. Charles W. Howard, M.P. for East Cumberland, brother of Lord Carlisle—died some years since.

It will be remembered that when the elevation of Baron Parke to the peerage was first mooted in the papers, at Christmas last, it was confidently asserted that, in default of any other local connection, the title chosen by Mr. Baron Parke would be that of Lord Amptill, from Amptill Park, Bedfordshire, formerly the seat of the late Earl of Ossory, and associated with the memory of Charles James Fox, and other kindred spirits—a seat which his Lordship at present rents under the Duke of Bedford. It turned out, however, that he ultimately fixed on that of "Wensleydale," which he takes from the romantic valley of that name in Yorkshire, with which possibly his Lordship may have some pleasant associations. If so, he will have done no more than Lords Truro and Lyndhurst, who, not having an acre that they could call their own by inheritance, took their several titles, the one from the town where he got his first brief as a barrister, and the other from the place in the New Forest where he first met the lady who afterwards became his wife.

HUNTING SKETCHES.—NO. III.

SEEN a few run 'uns? Ah, that I have—p'raps no man more. There was old Prupper as I told you about before, he were one. Then one time, when I were livin' as huntsman with Sir Max Harkaway, a furrier chap come down to stop with him, and he would go out with the hounds, would

Mounseer. Never shall I forget the sight he were when he come down to breakfast that mornin'. He were dressed in a tight-fittin' green-velvet toonic; he'd a leather cap fittin' close to his head, buckskin breeches, and high duck-shootin' boots. But most wonderful of all was, that round at his left side, shingin' from his neck by a bright chain, were a large bugle

the squire ridin' by their side, and at Crompton were the nags. The meet was just outside the town, and there was a field of about a hundred and twenty. We tried five or six covers, but no luck; and the Captain, who'd been curvettin' about on Mr. Tom's brown mare, Firedly, seemed mighty glad Pug worn't in any of 'em.



MR. BARON PARKE, NOW LORD WENSLEYDALE.



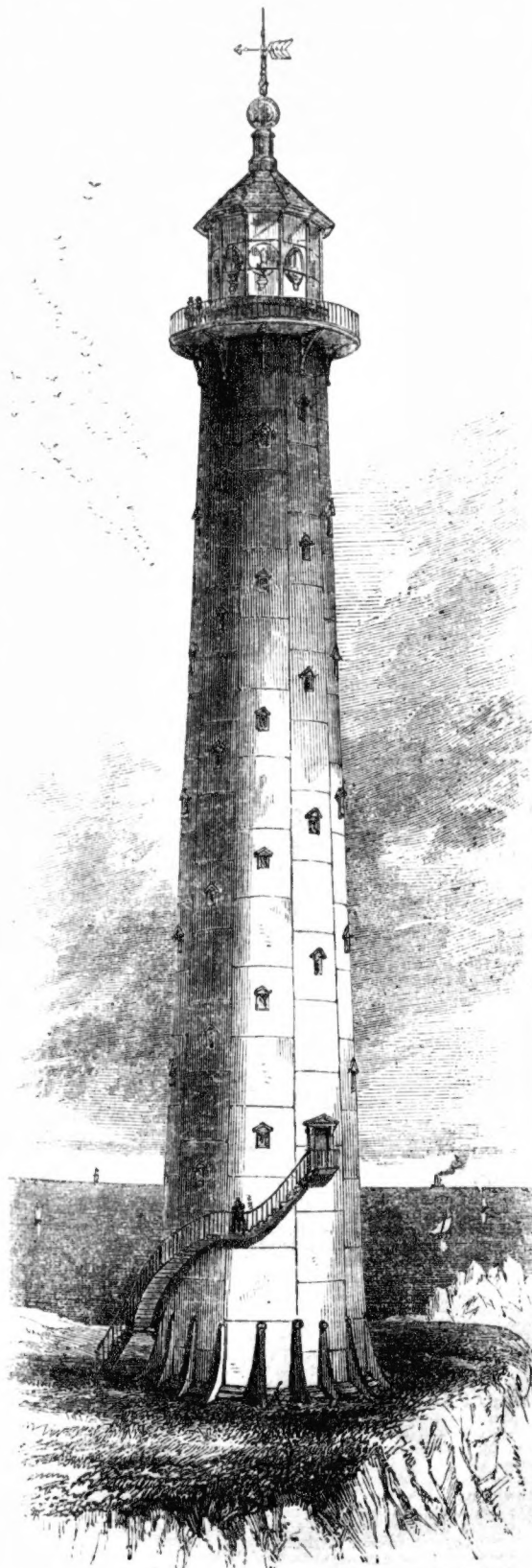
HUNTING SKETCHES, NO. III.—(BY PHIZ.)

"A SOFT SEAT; BUT DAMP—RATHER!"

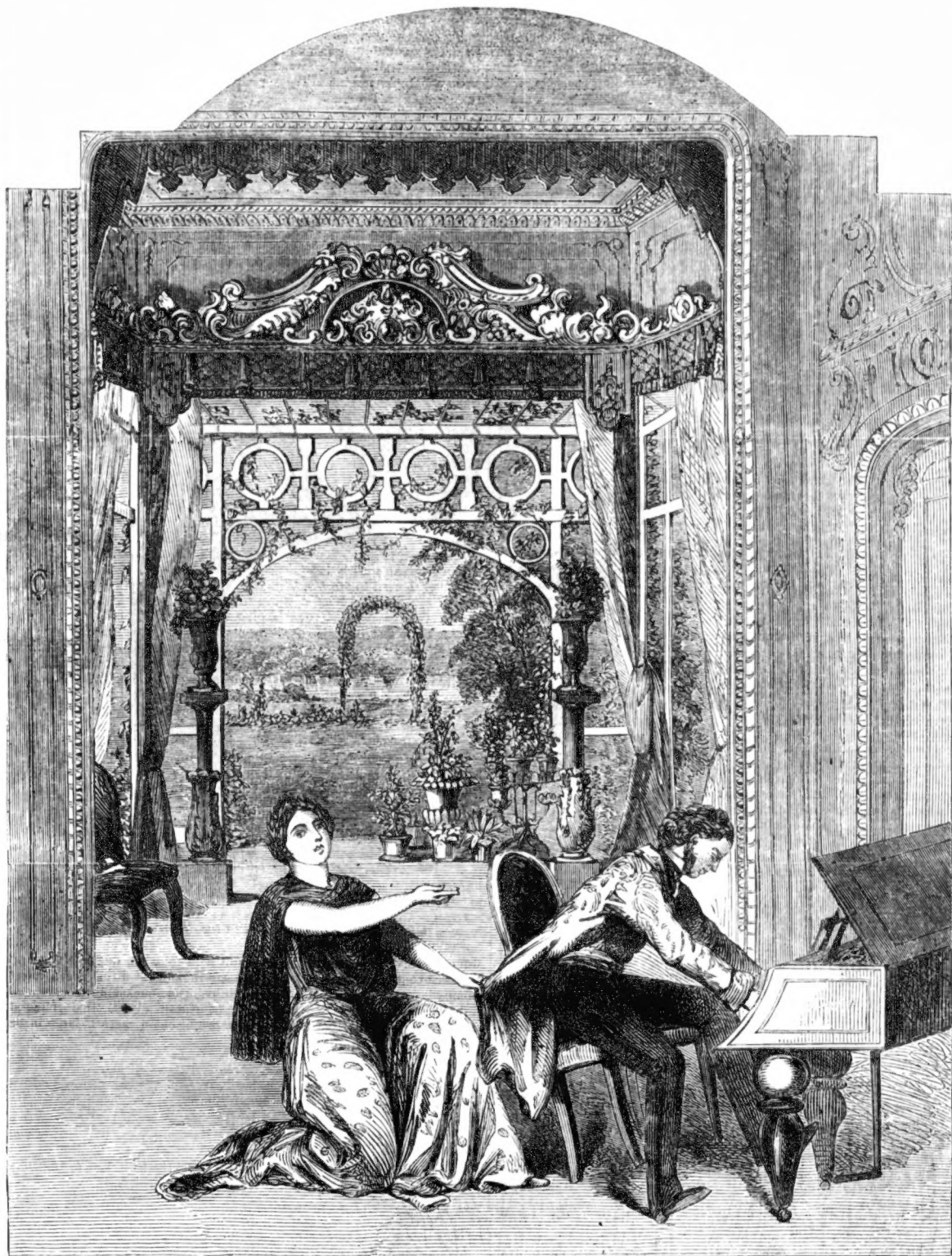
At last, in Brookdon Wood we found, and went away like good 'uns. I kep' my eye on Captain Flasher; for I knew at once by his style of seat, and the movement of his hands, he'd no notion o' ridin'. Goin' over a long piece of grass ground, he cleared two little furrows and a narrow ditch, and looked round as much as to say, "D'ye see that?" Next time I see him, he was goin' along over a deep fallow at a slappin' pace; then partly through, partly over, a stiff thorn fence; and then he rushed between two ash trees, so close together I thought he'd have knocked both his knee caps off. However, it didn't last long; in about twenty minutes he got his gruel, and this is how it was:—We'd just got through Wort's plantation, which was all young trees then, when, as I was risin' the opposite bank, and leanin' well forward, for it was mortal heavy soil, I see Mullin's cows being driv' up the lane. The Cap'n was close arter me, and had had a very tight time among the trees; his face was scratched, and he could scarcely see, when Firefly, comin' easily down into the lane, sees Mullin's cows close on to her, and shies at once, flingin' her rider on to his back in the mud. A finer sight I never see than that swell London Cap'n splashed up to his eyes, and sittin' gravely starin' at Mullin's cows, which was returnin' the compliment. He was took to a farm-house, and rubbed down and cleaned, but he got so laughed at arter dinner, that he went to London the next day, and I hear that even now he turns pale when he hears the "moo" of a cow.

"THE GREAT ISAAC'S" LIGHTHOUSE.

ANYONE passing from Islington Church, and crossing what used to be called Britannia or Shepherdess' Fields, but which are now studded with houses arranged into respectable streets and handsome squares of various names, must observe—unless, indeed, he believes Ovid's account of man's attitude and bearing, and looks downwards to the earth instead of upwards to the stars—a tall, foreign-looking erection, whose apex is already elevated high above the surrounding buildings. Many of the "city men," and the more intelligent of the artisan class, have remarked its great height, and wondered what it could be intended for. Having received an intimation of the character and destination of this singular erection, we determined the other day on giving it a somewhat close inspection, and informing our readers, by pictorial and descriptive representation, all about it. As we happened to be unacquainted with the locality, we were under the necessity of inquiring at the coal merchants' office, Canal Bridge, Hoxton, for Messrs. Grissell's, the lighthouse builders. On receiving the information, politely given, that we were to take the first turning to the left, which happens to be called Eagle Wharf Road, we soon found ourselves in the presence of the gentleman who represents the firm of Grissell and Co. He strongly impressed us as a man of great mechanical capacity, and as hav-



CAST-IRON LIGHTHOUSE TO BE ERECTED ON THE GREAT ISAAC ROCKS, NEAR BERMUDA.



MRS. GERMAN REED'S (LATE MISS P. HORTON) ENTERTAINMENT, AT THE GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION.

ing given his special attention to the erection of lighthouses and other works of a similar kind. In due time we were courteously introduced to Mr. Sheaves, the foreman; and like most men of his class, he appears an intelligent, shrewd, and brawny man. He proved a most worthy guide, and we soon felt that we might place implicit confidence in any statements he might chose to make.

We were informed that the worthy establishment had been in existence for about fifteen years, and that from three to four hundred men were constantly employed in it. From this fact alone the public may understand that the Messrs. Grissell do a large general engineering business, in addition to the special work, now in hand, which attracted us to their establishment. This special work consists in the building of a lighthouse by order of the Admiralty, to be fixed on the Great Isaac Rocks, distant some hundred miles from Bermuda. As all the world knows, the Bermudas consist of about 300 small islands belonging to Great Britain, situated in the Atlantic, about 800 miles east from South Carolina. In those parts there are many rocks dangerous to the mariner. In winter the gales are very severe; and on the "still-veged Bermoothes," there unhappily have been, in times past, many

"—A brave vessel,
Who had no doubt some noble creature in her,
Dash'd all to pieces."

In those parts, "the most mighty Neptune" strikes his "dread trident," so that a lighthouse of the present dimensions must be looked upon as a boon to the navigators of those tempest-troubled waters.

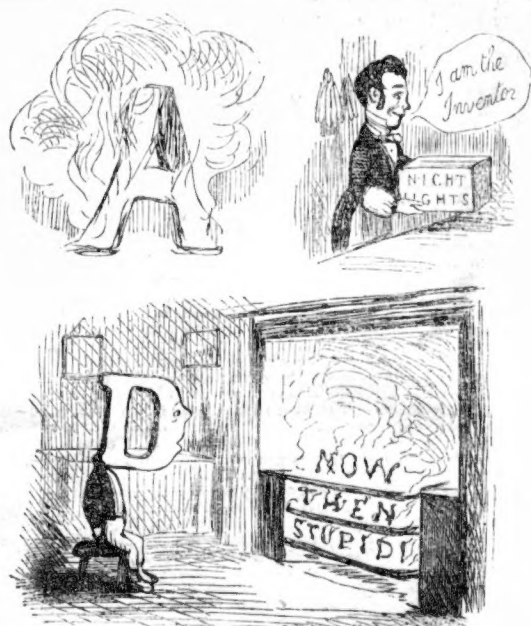
The tower is 120 feet high, from the base to the plane on which the lantern is to rest, and 150 feet to the top of the lantern. At the base the tower is 25 feet in diameter, and on the top 14 feet. One of the great peculiarities of the construction, is that the 155 large cast iron plates of which it is composed, are not placed horizontally round the tower as heretofore, in erections of a similar kind; but in what is technically called "break joints," i. e., the plates, so to speak, are dove-tailed and wedged the one into the other, in such a manner as to form a perfect column (as may be seen from our engraving), and equal in strength in all its parts.

As we mounted the first flight of steps somewhat hastily, we were duly warned by our guide not to go so fast, otherwise we should be fatigued long before we reached the top. Some time before we reached the base again, we were fully satisfied that the advice was a good one, and we here say to all persons inexperienced in stair-climbing—"Step leisurely." The first staircase is on the outside of the tower, and after ascending thirty-two steps, or a height of twenty-four feet above the base, we entered the interior of the building, and found ourselves in a spacious circular apartment or room, quite capable of accommodating a large family. Although the rooms no doubt will have a comfortable aspect, we confess we have no special predilections for a tower residence, even though established on a patriarchal rock.

This room, however, and the other five of similar construction in the upper storeys, are all designed, and will be fitted up for, the accommo-

tion of the keeper of the tower. We envy him not his residence, especially as the plates, substantial as they may be for their purpose, are not "bomb-proof." However, the Isaac Rocks are a good foundation, and the service rendered by the great revolving lights will serve to propitiate, at least we hope so, all the foes of Great Britain who may hereafter cruise in those parts. Each of the six rooms is sixteen feet high, so that the inhabitant will have plenty of breathing-room and abundance of fresh air. When we reached the platform where the lantern, which is being constructed by Mr. Wilkins of Long-acre, will ere long be placed in working order, we looked down upon the Britannia Fields, Hoxton, and the surrounding neighbourhood, and felt somewhat dizzy.

Of course the lantern is to be securely bolted to the tower, and the



REBUS.

lights alone are to revolve. The Revolutions will be caused by machinery resembling the works of a clock, and the weights necessary for the purpose will be attached to chains, and suspended in a great pipe or tunnel which extends from the base of the tower to the apex, running right through the tower like the pith of an enormous tree. The railing represented in our engraving at the base of the lantern, is 3 feet 6 inches high, and not 4 feet 6 inches, as represented by a contemporary.

As already intimated, the diameter of the base of the lantern is 14 feet, and its height about 24 feet. It is a polygon of sixteen sides, 10 feet high, with frames of gun-metal, and glazed with thick plate-glass 10 feet high, with a copper covering.

The light is on what is called the "catoptric principle," consisting of twenty-one Argand lamps and silver-plated reflectors, 21 inches in diameter and 9 inches deep, mounted on a triangular frame of three faces, with seven lamps and reflectors on each face.

On reaching the base, Mr. Sheaves described to us the manner in which the plates of iron were elevated to their respective places on the tower. This feat has been accomplished by an ingenious contrivance. There is a machine to which a chain is attached. This chain passes up through the "pith pipe" to what, for the time being, happens to be the highest floor, where a crane is fixed. By means of the machine referred to, and the omnipotent appliances of steam, the plates are elevated to the required height; as many as "ten plates are lifted every move," we were told. By this means, it struck us that a tower of any conceivable height might be built, and that, after all, the Babel Tower, "which was to reach to heaven," was not an ideal impossibility. "Certainly not," our intelligent guide replied; "the only consideration would be the weight of the chain required." Of course, all this is mathematically correct; we have only to supply some modern Archimedes with a fulcrum, and with his mighty lever he will soon elevate the world. By such appliances as these, we may one day be able to give an engraving of a tower erected for the purpose of guiding the "storm-tossed mariner" in some of the celestial planets—until then, we shall faithfully record, as in the present instance, what is being done for the guidance of men who "do business in great waters" for the benefit of those who inhabit this small world of ours.

After inspecting the tower, we were shown the interesting process by which the 13-inch mortars are manufactured for the Admiralty; but we shall reserve what we have to say on this head until we are enabled to present our readers with some pictorial illustrations.

MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT.

"FLOWERS gathered from real life" is a pretty and suggestive title, and the subject is well treated by Mr. William Brough, who has "done" Mrs. Reed's entertainment. The first illustration of character is a Miss Snowberry, a scandal-loving old maid, who sings a capital song with a very old moral; and then we have a charity boy (this time a kit-cat portrait), who rattles off with very long learned-by-rote answers to certain questions, but when asked to explain himself, entirely exposes the parrot-like plan of his instruction. The next illustration is one of the best: Mrs. Reed representing two old women at once, and imitating their voices—both old, hard and cracked, but widely different in sound—most admirably. The best of all her personations is that of Sir John Quill, a handsome, pleasant idiot, with a most mirth-provoking laugh, which he introduces everywhere, even into a capital song which he sings.

The second part of the entertainment is called "The Enraged Musician," showing us the unhappy Mr. Reed attempting to compose an opera, and being perpetually interrupted by his wife under various disguises. It is in this portion that Mrs. Reed's excellent vocal abilities are chiefly brought into play; and her singing of various *prima donna* airs at the conclusion, could not be excelled by any English vocalist. Our artist has depicted Mrs. Reed at the close of the performance, when, by rapidly casting a scarf round her shoulders and slipping a wreath on to her head, she transforms herself into a perfect operatic heroine, and elicits immense applause and laughter by her imitations of well-known Italian singers.

EXTRAORDINARY DEATH OF A MISER.

On Saturday afternoon last, the Coroner for Westminster held an inquest at the Board Room, St. James's Workhouse, Poland Street, on the body of Frederick Hoffman, whose death occurred under circumstances detailed below, and on whose body considerable property was discovered.

Mr. James Ainsworth, of Old Ford, Bow, a retired publican, deposed that the deceased was his nephew. He was about 41 or 42 years of age. He was a jeweller, and employed at Messrs. Howel and James's, Regent Street. He had never suffered from any illness, and when he last saw him he was in good health.

Samuel Rudd said he was a waiter at Mr. Rothschild's, of 10, Argyll Street. On Thursday night the deceased was employed by Mr. Rothschild, who had a party, to look after the hats and cloaks; and during the night witness went into one of the rooms, where he saw the deceased, who had fallen off a chair, and finding he was insensible, Mr. Rothschild was informed of the circumstance, and a surgeon was sent for, who pronounced him dead.

James Milsted, constable 17 C, said, about three o'clock on Friday morning, he was called to Mr. Rothschild's, where he saw the body of the deceased. Upon searching the deceased, he found £37 in gold and silver, a £5 note, a deposit book of the Royal British Bank for the amount of £1,225, one of the London and Westminster Bank for £500, a bill of exchange for £15 15s., another for £25, a bill on the Bank of Deposit, Pall Mall, for £150; a receipt for consols to the amount of £1,150; three parcels of pearls, three of rubies, three of diamonds, one of rough diamonds, one of emeralds, and one of garnets. Upon a further search, £41 in gold was afterwards discovered secreted about his person.

Mr. Crapple, surgeon, deposed that the death of the deceased had been caused by apoplexy, probably accelerated by drinking wine freely that night, as there was old-standing disease in heart and brain. Mr. Rothschild said he employed the deceased, as he represented himself as a poor man, and wished to raise £10 to go into the country. It was stated that a great deal more property had been discovered. The jury returned a verdict of "Natural death."

THE MALVERN BONFIRE.

THE following sensible letter disposes, we think, completely of the random assertions that have been made respecting the great distance at which the Malvern bonfire was visible:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES."
In answer to a correspondent (whose statement appeared in your journal of last week), I beg to say that the Malvern Hills are not at all in sight of Elton Church Tower, the distance between the trigonometrical point on Malvern and that on Elton Tower is between 130 and 150 miles (computed), not 104 as your correspondent states.

I have before me a trigonometrical diagram, showing the principal points taken at Malvern by the Ordnance Observers, and in no case do I find they have been able to sight a single object beyond sixty miles, with the exception of Mendip, which is about sixty-two. If Malvern were raised to 5,000 feet above the level of the sea, which would leave it 3,556 feet higher than it really is, I question if even then it would come in sight of anything in the neighbourhood of York (the Wolds included). Snowden, in Wales, is 3,571 feet above the sea level; Crif-Fell, in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, is 1,831 feet, and is distant from Snowden 130 miles, with nothing in the shape of land intervening—still they are not in sight of each other, owing, of course, to the curvature affecting the distance. A straight line drawn from Snowden to Crif-Fell, would, at mid-way, be several feet under the sea. I give below a list of the points taken at Malvern by the Ordnance Survey Observers. The distance in miles to each point will be found as correct as could be taken by a scale for common use:—

Brdon Hill, 60 miles; Arbury Hill, 48; Broadway Tower, 22; Cleve Hill, 20; Symonds Hall, 30; Mendip, 62; May Hill, 16; Blagdon, 57; Trelling Beacon, 28; Myndymane, 42; Cradle Mount, 35; Radnor Foust, 38; Cleve Hill, 29; Wreklin, 41. By the foregoing it will be seen that no earthly object beyond 62 miles came in view of the Observers. Objects 104 miles distant, but in sight of each other, are in these islands, as the old saying has it, few and far between. Divis, near Belfast, is in sight of Sea-Fell, Cumberland, distance 115 miles, which distance is, I believe, the greatest obtained in the three kingdoms. Sea-Fell is 3,166 feet above the sea, and Divis touching, probably, on 3,000 feet; still, when looking at Divis from Sea-Fell it appears a mere streak on the horizon, and therefore barely visible above the water.

JAMES DUFFEY.

THE MURDER BY A CONVICT AT PORTSMOUTH.

THE circumstances attending the dreadful murder of Mr. Charles William Hope, assistant-surgeon on board the convict-ship *Stirling Castle*, are detailed in the following evidence before the Coroner's inquest, held on Friday, Feb. 8th, on board the *Stirling Castle*, Portsmouth, before William Swainson, Esq., Admiralty Coroner:—

William Charles—I am infirm warder of the Convict Invalid Establishment in Portsmouth Harbour. I knew the deceased, Charles William Hope; he was assistant-surgeon of the Convict Establishment, and resided on board the *Briton* and *Stirling Castle*. This morning, a few minutes before eight o'clock, deceased was in the surgery on board the *Stirling Castle*. Thomas Jones, a convict, bearing the register number 1,246, asked William Hope to examine his chest. Deceased told Jones to undress, and he would examine him. Jones did so, and deceased sounded him. Jones then asked deceased if he meant to send him to the lower deck. Deceased said, "I don't see any occasion for it at present, as we are very full on the lower deck," and that if he saw any change in him he would send him to the lower deck of the *Briton*. Jones then began to put on his clothes, saying, "Very well." Mr. Hope was then about leaving, and Jones snatched up his clothes on the form opposite the chapel gallery door, leading to the gallery. Deceased was then in the act of passing along the chapel gallery. I saw the prisoner catch the deceased round the neck with the left hand, and with his right hand he struck deceased apparently in the face. I was at this time about two yards from the deceased. I stepped forward and caught hold of the prisoner, and drew him away from deceased. The deceased immediately ran away round the gallery; he did not call out that he was hurt. There was no blood, or anything to attract attention. When I seized the prisoner he struck at me, and I secured his right hand with my left hand. Since then I have ascertained that both the coats I had on were cut through, apparently by a sharp instrument. The prisoner then made his way towards the gallery door, saying he wanted to see Mr. Williams, the chief warder. I stood opposite to him. He said, "I don't want to hurt you, Mr. Charles, but I want to see Mr. Williams." He made a step towards the gallery door, to go to the upper deck, and I stopped him. I waited three or four minutes with the prisoner—another officer, Mr. Meader, being with us. I went to see Mr. Williams, and in passing the governor's office door, I saw deceased lying down in the office on his back, and a prisoner named George Mitchell was leaning over him. The blood was then flowing quite fast from deceased's neck and mouth, and Mitchell appeared to be attending to deceased. He said, "Mr. Hope fell down in a fit and is bleeding." I then untied the deceased's neckerchief, and found he had received a wound in his throat. I sent immediately for Mr. Keeley, who came in about ten minutes. When I first saw the deceased he was gasping, and so continued for about five minutes, and then died. I am not aware of any dispute between deceased and the prisoner Jones, except that yesterday. Mr. Hope discharged him from the lower deck to a class. This change would cause the prisoner a change of bedding and diet, by having to sleep in a hammock. I now recollect that about five minutes before the blow was struck, the prisoner said to deceased, "You and Mr. Williams are conspiring together to do me a serious injury." The deceased interrupted the prisoner, saying he was not to believe anything of the sort, as he had not mentioned the name of prisoner to Mr. Williams. He, prisoner, said he would not be slow poisoned, or slow murdered.

William Meader, assistant warder, deposed to seeing deceased after the blow was struck by the prisoner, and to securing the latter with Mr. Williams. After he was locked up in the cell, prisoner said to Mr. Williams, "You—villain, I will serve you the same way: mark my word, there is some one waiting for you on board." Mr. Hope did not say anything but that the prisoner had struck him.

Some additional evidence was then adduced, after which the inquest was adjourned till Monday last. On the inquest being resumed, several fresh witnesses were examined, and at the close of the proceedings the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner Jones, who was removed to Winchester Gaol to await his trial.

THE RUGELEY POISONING CASES.

IN further exculpation of Inspector Field, from the charge made against him, of not having suggested an inquiry into the suspicious circumstances attendant on the death of Mr. Walter Palmer, we have much pleasure in making public the following letter, which we think entirely removes all ground of complaint against Mr. Field, in reference to the matter:—

Lloyd's Junction Hotel, Stafford, 16th Jan. 1856.
SIR,—I have not, until to-day, been able to find an opportunity to answer your somewhat imperative letter, dated the 14th instant. I did inform Capt. Hatton that you suggested a communication with the Coroner, which I did not press you to make, having been informed the Coroner was in full possession of the facts of the case. I also informed Capt. Hatton that Mr. Gover had applied to the Secretary of State on the subject. Allow me to state that I conceive the information obtained by you in the prosecution of a private inquiry, to be the property of your employer for the time being, which you are not at liberty to divulge.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY A. DEANE.

Mr. C. H. Field, Private Inquiry Office, Eldon Chambers, Devereux Court, Temple.

THE BURNOPFIELD MURDER.—A pair of lancets, answering the description of the lancets taken from Mr. Stirling, are now in the possession of the police. Mr. Stirling was murdered on the 1st of November last. About Christmas, a lad named Gleason, living in Durham, and who, as well as his father, is a tuner, sent his sister to the house of a surgeon, Mr. Telfair, with two lancets, for which Mr. Telfair gave the bearer sixpence. Gleason, according to report, has for years made for "Whiskey Jack" the stills he required for making whiskey, and it is well known that "Whiskey Jack" always called at Gleason's when he was in Durham. When the county police, a short time ago, issued the corrected description of Mr. Stirling's watch, there was appended an account of the other articles taken from Mr. Stirling, including the description of the lancets. Mr. Telfair, on observing this description, was struck by the fact of the lancets he had obtained from Gleason having been repaired with some substance which, though not gutta percha, might easily have been taken for that article by a casual observer. When the lancets were brought to him, he was told that Gleason's son had found them, but after the issuing of the description of the articles taken from Mr. Stirling, he made further inquiries of the Gleasons, and was informed that in turning over the contents of a box containing many odds and ends, the lancets came to light, and had been sent to him, as they had no use for them, and that the lancets had come into Gleason's possession through their having belonged to an uncle, who was a barber and hairdresser. The uncle certainly may have had such instruments, but the fact of the lancets having been sold within a few weeks of Mr. Stirling's death, and "Whiskey Jack" having been a constant caller at Gleason's, gave rise to serious suspicions.

CHILD MURDER.—On Saturday last, Mr. Carter, the coroner for the Eastern Division of Surrey, held an inquest at the Winchelsea Tavern, Walworth, on the body of Frank Withers Rider, aged six weeks, the son of Mr. Thomas George Rider, a commercial clerk, residing at No. 12, Onslow Terrace, Lorrimer Road, who was murdered by his mother, Emily Rider, on the previous Thursday. Miss Georgina Armstrong deposed that on Thursday, about five minutes past ten o'clock in the morning, her sister called her up stairs, and informed her that Mrs. Rider had drowned her infant. She then went into Mrs. Rider's bedroom, but on looking in the bed, she could not see the deceased; and on returning to Mrs. Rider, she said, "You will find it in a pan, with a board over it." Witness again went into the bedroom, and then discovered the infant in a brown pan, filled with water. The deceased was lying on its face, with its legs doubled under the body. She (witness) was so alarmed that she was unable to take the child out of the water, but immediately ran for medical assistance. She believed the child was dead when she first observed it in the pan. Mrs. Rider had been apparently insane for some time, and had attempted to destroy her own life more than once. About a quarter of an hour before witness discovered the body, she heard the child cry and the mother singing to it to keep it quiet.

LAW AND POLICE.

DR. VAUGHAN.—The Rev. John Vaughan, D.D., formerly incumbent of St. Matthew's District Church, Brixton, was charged before the Central Criminal Court, on the 8th inst., on three indictments for felony, in making false entries in the parish registry of burials.

Serjeant Wilkins, who appeared as counsel for the prosecution, said it was under the 1st William IV., sec. 20, which makes it felony to insert false entries respecting a marriage, birth, or burial; and it was of serious importance to society that such entries should be correct. Dr. Vaughan was, in 1855, incumbent of St. Matthew's, Brixton; and, under the act, double the ordinary fees were charged in cases of non-residents. On the 6th of June, 1855, one Jane Webb, who had lived at 53, Park Place, Clapham, died, and the registrar gave a certificate of her death. The Clapham district was beyond the St. Matthew district, of which it might be supposed that the minister was aware. At the burial, Plummer, the undertaker—who, at the time, was also clerk of St. Matthew's parish—gave the registrar's certificate of the deceased's non-residence to Maltby, the sexton. But Dr. Vaughan entered in the parish registry that deceased's residence had been in Acre Lane, which was within St. Matthew's district; and for such interment only 6s.—a single fee—was stated to have been received as ground fee, although, in fact, 12s. had been actually paid. This was the offence charged in the first indictment.

J. W. Plummer, formerly parish clerk of St. Matthew's, said he was the undertaker at Jane Webb's burial. She was buried from Park Place, which is in Clapham district. Witness gave the certificate to Maltby, and paid him £1 15s., which was a double fee, and deducted 2s. 4d., a double fee, to which witness was entitled. On the morning of the funeral, witness saw Maltby pay money to Dr. Vaughan in the vestry. There were two weddings and one funeral that morning. No one was present except witness. He saw Maltby enter the certificate in the rough-book. (This book was produced; 6s. was the fee once received.) The initials, "G. E." to the entry were Mr. Eastman's. 6s. was the single fee. A portion of the words, "Acre Lane," is in Dr. Vaughan's handwriting. Dr. Vaughan gave witness the certificate to place on the file. The deceased's relatives never paid witness his funeral bill.

Cross-examined—I was never regularly appointed parish clerk. I did the duties after the death of my father, who had been clerk. I am not yet 18 years old. Dr. Vaughan went abroad in August, 1855. There was much excitement in the parish on the subject of this matter, and handbills (produced) were circulated, reflecting on Dr. Vaughan's character. I stuck up the bills; one opposite Dr. Vaughan's house. I got the handbills from Mr. Eastman, the curate. I don't know that Dr. Vaughan and his curate are not on good terms. I don't know what o'clock it was when I gave the money to Maltby, but a wedding was going on. I have nothing to do with weddings, but I always come to open the church. I gave Maltby altogether £2 6s. 6d. before the wedding was over. Dr. Vaughan officiated at the wedding. I cannot say positively whether Maltby said something to the effect of "out of the district." I cannot remember who spoke, or what was said.

The Attorney-General, for the defence: Will you swear that Maltby did not mention Acre Lane as the place whence the funeral had come?—Witness (hesitating): I won't swear anything. I looked in the rough book on the following Sunday, and then, for the first time, saw the residence was given as Acre Lane. Dr. Vaughan was then in France, and it was after I had heard that Maltby had improperly taken double fees, and that the inhabitants had complained on the subject. Maltby and I used to settle our running account for fees once a month. I will not swear that we did not settle our accounts at a public-house. I am not aware that the churchwardens objected to so many funerals from outlying districts. I posted some of the handbills on a Sunday. I went round in a cab for the purpose, by orders from the churchwardens. I did so because the bills posted on the Saturday night were torn down. The handbills were for the convening of a meeting to take my dismissal into consideration, and also the improper receipt of fees. A committee of respectable parishioners was appointed on the subject. I was dismissed by Dr. Vaughan on the alleged ground of "my late mysterious conduct and disrespectful behaviour to him." I had not acted mysteriously or disrespectfully that I am aware of. The pew-opener was allowed 2s. 6d. for every out-district funeral. A portion of Acre Lane is in St. Matthew's district.

George Maltby said—I was sexton of St. Matthew's for two years. I remember Jane Webb's funeral. It took place at half-past two in the afternoon. I received money on the day before the funeral, or the day after, from Plummer. He paid me £1 15s. They were double fees. I paid the fees to Dr. Vaughan either that day or the day after, in Plummer's presence. I gave Dr. Vaughan 12s., of which 12s. was a double ground fee. The remainder was a double clerk fee. I don't remember whether any wedding took place on the day of the funeral. It was in the morning when I received the fees from Plummer.—(The witness was reminded that he had said that the funeral was at half-past two.) He then said he could not remember whether it was on the same day that he received the money.—The Attorney-General then told the witness to make his choice, and stick to something.—He then said he could not tell when the money paid, whether on the day of the funeral, the day before, or the day after.

Cross-examined—Mr. Eastman, the curate, sometimes made the entry of the place of death. When the abode was not in the certificate the sexton used to name the place to the clergyman, who entered what he was told. Dr. Vaughan frequently came with his son to the vestry. I cannot say that I have seen Dr. Vaughan six times by himself during all the time I have known him. To the best of my knowledge none of his children were present when these matters occurred in the vestry. I remember two persons named Harrison and Meynell, complaining one Sunday of an incorrect certificate. They were in communication with Mr. Eastman, and were asked to wait. While they were waiting, I offered them 6s. which they had overpaid. I did not exactly offer the money, but I had it in my pocket waiting for them. (A laugh.) They refused to take it. I do not recollect telling them that they had only paid £1 9s. To the best of my recollection I did not say so. I will not swear to it. I cannot say one way or the other. I do not recollect saying to Mr. Matthew Vaughan, after Mrs. Webb's funeral, that Eastman and Plummer were trying to get up a row about the burial fees. I do not remember. I can almost say I did not.

Mr. Justice Wightman—Are you sure or not?—Witness—I cannot say. To the Attorney-General—The six shillings I offered to refund was half the ground fee. When the certificate does not state the last abode, the clergyman has no means of knowing it, except by what I or the clerk tell him. I do not know that I told him anything. I was not there at the time. Plummer sometimes writes the entries in the rough book.

The Attorney-General—Point out a single entry in Plummer's handwriting?—The witness was unable to do so.

Cross-examination continued—Dr. Vaughan objected to Plummer going into the vestry at all, as he smelled so strongly of smoke. Proceedings were taken against Dr. Vaughan in the County Court. A distress for £12 was put into my house, and the doctor advanced the money. There was a dispute about £2 10s., and there were cross actions between the Doctor and me. The Doctor obtained judgment, and my action was withdrawn. I swore I did not owe the £12, and my counsel withdrew, and said he would have no more to do with me. The County Court Judge said he believed I had committed perjury, but he said he would not commit me, as Dr. Vaughan was wealthy enough to prosecute. Mrs. Harrison complained to the churchwardens of the incorrect certificate given to her, and they could not get some money out of the bank, the identity of the deceased person being disputed. I received some double fees myself, and paid the Doctor only single fees. I refused the double fees because Mrs. Harrison was poor. Dr. Vaughan told me to do so. I should have given her the money if I had seen her. (A laugh.) Dr. Vaughan insisted on my returning it.

Mr. G. Eastman, curate to Dr. Vaughan, and still holding the appointment, said I have not taken an active part in this matter, and am not aware that I have ever been on bad terms with Dr. Vaughan. I ordered some of the handbills to be distributed at the churchwardens' request. I told Plummer where to stick them up. I did this at the churchwardens' request. I believe I am still the curate of Brixton. I have received notice from the new incumbent that my services will be no longer required.

The Attorney-General: Have you given notice that, before your departure, you intend to preach on a sermon upon the trial of Dr. Vaughan, and one upon his conviction?

Witness: I am surprised at the question.

Other witnesses having been examined, and the Attorney-General having addressed the jury for the defence, Mr. Justice Wightman summed up. He said that the charge made against the prisoner was that he had knowingly inserted in writing in the parish register, representing that the deceased person, Anne Webb, had died in Acre Lane, when, in point of fact, she had died in Clapham; and, before the jury could return a verdict of guilty, they must be satisfied that the act was wilfully done, knowing the statement to be false. The case appeared to him to rest entirely upon the evidence of the two witnesses, Maltby and Plummer; and it was for the jury to consider, after what they had seen of the demeanour of those witnesses, and the manner in which they had given their evidence, whether they could feel themselves justified in returning a verdict of guilty upon such testimony. It appeared to him that, even if they were speaking the truth in the matter, that there was this difficulty in the case, that there was no proof that Dr. Vaughan knew that Acre Lane was a false address; and as it appeared that a part of Acre Lane was out of the district, he would have been justified in taking double fees, supposing it to be a genuine address. This was very important, because an essential art of the charge was that the false entry should be made knowingly, and, if it were made otherwise, it would be no offence.

The jury immediately returned a verdict of Not Guilty.

There was some applause in the court when the verdict was pronounced, which was, however, speedily checked.

The trial was resumed on the morning of the 9th, when the indictment charged that Dr. Vaughan had knowingly and wilfully caused to be inserted in the register of the parish of St. Matthew, Brixton, a false entry concerning the burial of one William Raven.

Serjeant Wilkins, in his opening speech, said that if this case had rested entirely upon the evidence of Maltby and Plummer, he should not have felt himself justified in proceeding further. He did not find any fault with the verdict

delivered on the previous day—he thought they could not, under the circumstances, return any other. He felt satisfied that after the exhibition these witnesses had made in the court, and the manner in which they had given evidence, the jury could not place any reliance upon it, and he was quite prepared for the verdict that would be delivered. The indictment, however, with which he was then about to proceed rested upon unexceptionable grounds.

Several witnesses were examined to prove the general facts of the case. It appeared that Raven resided at Stockwell Grove, in the Kennington district, for which double wall fees would be chargeable. He died on the 16th September 1854, and the registrar of the district gave the usual certificate. He was buried eventually in St. Matthew's Churchyard, and according to the entry in the parish register, the handwriting of the prisoner, the residence of the deceased was stated to be in Robert Street, which was within the St. Matthew's district, and a sum of 6s. was stated to have been received, which was the amount of a single fee, and that amount only was accounted for to the churchwardens, the sum of 12s., the double fee, having, in fact, been paid.

Frederick Haydon, undertaker, swore that he, in company with Maltby, the witness in the former case, had gone to Dr. Vaughan with respect to the funeral. The Doctor, he said, had received him in his study, and had there told him that if he allowed the funeral to take place, he must have double fees. These were given to Dr. Vaughan, who thereupon gave the witness a receipt, which he had lost. When he was going away, Dr. Vaughan told him that if anybody inquired of him where the funeral came from, he must tell a lie. He was to say that it came from Robert Street, which was within the St. Matthew's district.

Maltby was called to confirm the statements of Haydon. Upon cross-examination, however, he contradicted the chief witness in many important particulars, and some of his statements were in contradiction to his own previous assertions.

For the defence were produced the maid-servant who had opened the door for Haydon and Maltby, and Dr. Vaughan's two daughters, who were with him in his study when they presented themselves at his house. They positively swore that the two witnesses were never admitted into the study at all, but that Dr. Vaughan told them in the hall to apply to the churchwardens upon the business.

Sergeant Wilkins then rose and said he felt that the evidence that had been adduced for the defence was so overwhelming that he ought not to proceed further with the case, and he should at once withdraw from the prosecution. The churchwardens, it appeared to him, had done no more than their duty by instituting this inquiry, and he felt it due to them to state that the moment he intimated his opinion to them, that at once concurred, and it was with their sanction that he had adopted the course of retiring from the case.

There was a burst of applause at the termination of the speech of Sergeant Wilkins, which was with some difficulty repressed.

The jury then returned a verdict of "Not Guilty," and no evidence being offered upon the third indictment, in that case a verdict of "Not Guilty" was recorded. Dr. Vaughan was then ordered to be immediately discharged; and, after leaving to the Judge and jury, he left the Court with his friends.

THE SONO MURDER.—William Bonsfield, the man who stands committed for the wilful murder of his wife and three children, in Portland Street, Soho, was brought before the Metropolitan Police Court, on Monday, to hear an addition to the depositions, which had relation to the post-mortem examination of his murdered wife.

The prisoner was allowed to sit down in the dock, but without the handcuffs. He hung his head down, and took no notice whatever of anything that occurred in court.

Mr. Hadway, surgeon, said—Since Monday last I have made examination of two of the bodies, the mother and one of the children. I find that the wounds I saw on those bodies, and described on Monday last, were the cause of the deaths of the mother and child. The wounds I found were an inch in width. The chisel was five-eighths of an inch broad, and I account for the difference of width between wounds and chisel by retraction of the skin.

One of the Wardens of the prison—On Tuesday morning I searched the prisoner, and found the shirt I produce saturated with blood, and the right sleeve gone. The next day I asked the prisoner where the sleeve was, and the prisoner said he knew nothing about it.

An Inspector of Police—On Wednesday afternoon I searched the prisoner's room again, and found the sleeve of a man's shirt covered with blood, by the side of the French bedstead. The sleeve appears to have been torn from the shirt found in the prisoner's possession. There were spots of blood on the ceiling over the French bedstead, also blood on a flat candlestick, and the candle found on the floor of the room.

John Jones—The chisel produced belongs to the prisoner; I gave it to him.

Mary Ann Bennett—I live in the same house as the prisoner. I nursed his wife during her last confinement. The prisoner and his wife appeared to be on good terms then. After that I have known them to have words several times, on account of the prisoner not striving to get a bit of bread for his children. I have heard him say that his wife made better too free with some young men, customers, who came to the shop.

The Inspector produced a letter purporting to have been written by the prisoner to Mr. Jones, acknowledging having murdered his wife and three children, which turned out to be a cruel and stupid hoax, the prisoner stating that he knew nothing of this letter, and there being this further proof of the forgery, that the prisoner has not been supplied with pen and paper since he has been in prison.

The examinations and depositions having been completed, the prisoner, who still maintained a rigid silence, having declined to make any reply to the charge, was fully committed for trial.

The prisoner, as soon as he was in the cell, having applied for some refreshment, on the plea that he felt very faint, the Magistrate permitted Welsh, the gaoler, to supply him with a nutmeg chop and some porter.

A SCENE IN COURT.—F. G. Van Zeller, the Portuguese Consul-General, entered the Thames Police Court, on Monday, while Mr. Yardley was hearing the night charges, and addressing that magistrate, said, that a Portuguese seaman was in custody for stabbing one of his shipmates at sea, and he wished the case to be brought on as early as possible.

The Magistrate said he had no power to act in the case, as an offence committed on board a foreign ship at sea is cognizable only by the authorities of the country to which the ship belongs.

Some time afterwards, and when the night charges were disposed of, the Magistrate asked for the Portuguese case, and, on being informed it was ready, he addressed Mr. Van Zeller, and said he should be compelled to discharge the prisoner, for he had nothing at all to do with the case.

A somewhat angry discussion ensued.

The Magistrate said, he had gone into the case to satisfy the gentleman who attended for the prosecution that he had no jurisdiction. He asked the gentleman if he had authority to produce to justify him (the Magistrate) in detaining the prisoner? If no such authorities could be produced, he must discharge the man from custody.

Mr. Van Zeller (who remained seated)—You do as you like.

The Magistrate—I do according to law.

Mr. Van Zeller—The law will govern you.

The Magistrate—Of course it will. You wished me just now to express an opinion ex cathedra that I had the power to detain this man.

Mr. Van Zeller—Nothing of the sort. I said I thought you had.

The Magistrate—And, as I have to preside here, I expect one courtesy. You don't show it either in language or manner. You might at least rise when you address me.

Mr. Van Zeller—Sir, I have shown you courtesy.

The Magistrate—No, Sir, you have not, indeed. I don't

know who you are, but your language, the tone in which it is spoken, and your manner, are anything but courteous. Mr. Van Zeller, who assumed an air of rather haughty nonchalance, then rose from his seat and left the court.

ROBBERY OF SILVER CRIME N BARS.—W. H. Sharman, aged 35, a silversmith, was placed at the bar of the Clerkenwell Police Court, on Tuesday, charged with stealing from the works at 26, Harrison Street, Gray's Inn Road, five pieces of silver, called suspending bars to the Crimean medals, the property of Messrs. Hunt and Roskell.

It appeared from the evidence of the manager of the works, that that firm had lately taken a contract from the government for the manufacture of the bars attached to the Crimean medals. Having missed some of the work, and suspecting the prisoner, he counted all the work he gave and received from him. On Saturday last he gave him 200 bars, and upon his returning the work there were five pieces short. After he was paid for his work he was called into the manager's room, and in the presence of Sergeant Smith, 16 E. he was asked if he could account for the deficiency. He at first said he had returned all the work which he had received, but upon his telling the prisoner that he had himself counted the pieces, and asking him if he had any about him, he said he was very sorry, and produced from his pocket five pieces. The prisoner carried on £1 3s. to £1 10s. per week.

The prisoner, in answer to the charge, said—"I am guilty. It is the first time I have ever been in a police court, and if you will be kind enough to deal leniently with me, I will take very good care that such a thing shall never occur again. I am very sorry for what I have done."

The Magistrate said that cases like the present, where servants who were trusted robbed their employers, were far more serious than the case of a thief purloining something from a shop-window. The prisoner had not the excuse of poverty, for he saw from the sheet that he had money in his pocket at the time. He sentenced the prisoner, who appeared to feel his situation acutely, to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for four calendar months.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE dealings in nearly all national stocks, this week, have been very moderate, both for money and time; nevertheless, prices generally have ruled firm, and, in some instances, they have improved. There has been scarcely any gold drawn from the Bank for shipment to the Continent; but most of the late imports from Australia have been purchased on account of the Bank of France, and there has been no cessation in the exports of bullion to the East. This latter feature is a subject of some uneasiness; but at present, there is no prospect of shipments falling off.

The last return of the Bank of England is considered favourable; still, we find that much difficulty has been experienced in obtaining an adequate amount of accommodation. In Lombard Street, first-class short dated bills have been discounted at 6 per cent; and 5 per cent is freely offered by the various banks for money on deposit.

The 3 per cent Reduced have been 91½ up to 92½; Consols for money, 91½ to 91¾; do., for the account, 91½ to 91¾; New 3 per cent, 91½ to 91¾; Long Annuities, 1860, 3½; India Stock, 226; Exchequer Bills, 7s. 3d. discount; Exchequer Bonds, 97½ to 98.

Most foreign bonds have been tolerably firm; but no new feature has presented itself in the market. Danish 3 per cent, 47½; Portuguese 4 per cent, 47½; Russian 4½ per cent, 93½; Sardinian 5 per cent, 89½; Spanish 3 per cent, 42½; Turkish 6 per cent, 93½; do. 4 per cent (guaranteed), 100½ ex div.; Dutch 2½ per cent, 64.

Joint-Stock Bank Shares have been very firm in price. Australasia have been done at 92½; Bank of London, 60; British North American, 66; Colonial, 20½; London Joint Stock, 31 ex div.; London and Westminster, 47½ ex div.; Provincial of Ireland, 52; South Australia, 39½; Union of London, 28.

Railway shares have shown much firmness, and the quotations have had an upward tendency. Caledonian, 56; Eastern Counties, 10; Great Northern, 91½; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 104½; Great Western, 56½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 81½; London and North Western, 101; London and South Western, 94½; Midland, 69½; Norfolk, 51; South Eastern, 63½.

Miscellaneous securities have mostly realised full prices; but the business doing in them has been very moderate.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Since our last report, the supplies of English wheat on sale in these markets have been limited, and in damp condition. For most kinds the demand has ruled inactive, at about stationary prices. Foreign wheat, the imports of which have fallen off, has moved off heavily, at almost nominal quotations. We have been fairly supplied with barley, in which very few transactions have taken place, at a decline in prices of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. The malt trade has ruled heavy, at 1s. to 2s. per quarter less money. There has been a very slow sale for oats, at 1s. per quarter decline. Both beans and peas have changed hands heavily, and the quotations have given way 1s. to 2s. per quarter. The flour trade has ruled heavy, at last week's decline.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 55s. to 56s.; ditto, Red, 52s. to 53s.; Malting Barley, 32s. to 33s.; Distilling ditto, 32s. to 33s.; Grinding ditto, 31s. to 32s.; Malt, 58s. to 77s.; Rye, 48s. to 50s.; Feed Oats, 21s. to 22s.; Potato ditto, 25s. to 31s.; Tick Beans, 35s. to 36s.; Peas, 39s. to 46s.; White Peas, 44s. to 47s.; Maple, 31s. to 37s.; Gray, 33s. to 37s. per quarter. Town-made Flour, 65s. to 67s.; Town Households, 55s. to 56s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 50s. to 52s. per 280lbs.

CATTLE.—Fair average supplies of beasts have been on sale this week, and most kinds have moved off slowly, at a decline in prices of quite 2d. per 8lbs. We have to report a dull sale for sheep, at 2d. per 8lbs. less money. Calves have been dull, at a fall of 4d. per 8lbs. In pigs, very little business has been transacted. Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 6d.; mutton, 3s. 10d. to 4s. 5d.; veal, 4s. 4d. to 5s. 8d.; pork, 3s. 6d. to 4s. 10d. per 8lbs., to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—Great heaviness has prevailed in the demand for all kinds of meat—the supplies of which continue good—as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 6d. to 4s.; mutton, 2s. 6d. to 4s. 2d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 10d. per 8lbs. by the carcase.

TEA.—Although the deliveries continue extensive, the demand for nearly all kinds of tea is very inactive, as follows:—Congou, 9½d. to 2s. 7d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Soucheong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 2s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 3s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb. The stock in London is now 56,515,000 lbs., against 51,507,000 lbs. in 1855.

SUGAR.—Dealers have purchased sparingly, and the quotations almost generally have given way 1s. 6d. to 2s. per cwt. Evidently the consumption of sugar has greatly fallen off during the last three months, or we should have had considerable activity in the trade. The refined market is in a most unsettled state, and prices have been almost nominal.

MOLASSES.—Scarcely a transaction has taken place in any kind. Prices range from 19s. to 21s. 6d. per cwt.

COFFEE.—There has been a moderate inquiry for plantation coffees, at full prices. Good ord. native has sold at 51s. to 52s. per cwt. Foreign qualities are quite as dear as last week.

COCOA.—Our market is firm, and the quotations are well supported. Guayaquil has changed hands at 48s. to 49s.; Bahia and Pera, 40s. to 41s. per cwt.

RICE.—This article is dull in sale, and lower to purchase. White Bengal, 11s. to 17s.; Arracan and Madras, 10s. to 12s.; Patna, 16s. to 19s. per cwt.

FRUITS.—Currents are in fair request, and quite as dear as last week. Valencia raisins are selling at 30s. to 61s. Most other fruit is steady.

SPIRITS.—All kinds of rum have moved off heavily—proof Leewards at 2s. 5s. to 2s. 6d.; East India, 2s. 3d. to 2s. 4d. per gallon. We have to report a slow sale for brandy, the value of which has a downward tendency. Sales of Cognac, best brands of 1851, 10s. 4d. to 10s. 6d.; 1850 ditto, 10s. 5d. to 10s. 7d.; older, 11s. to 11s. 6d.; and low to middling, 6s. 6d. to 10s. 2d. per gallon. Gin, 17 underproof, is quoted at 9s. 10d.; 22 ditto, 9s. 4d.; raw spirit, 10s. 5d. per gallon. Geneva has realised 2s. 10d. to 2s. 8d. per gallon.

PROVISIONS.—We have a moderate inquiry for butter, and prices are well supported. Fine Dutch has realised 130s. per cwt. There is a fair sale for bacon, at last week's quotations. All other kinds of provisions are held at fair prices, but the demand for them is not active.

COTTON.—Our market is not quite so active, yet prices are well supported. Surat has realised 3½d. to 3d.; Bengal, 3½d. to 4d.; and Madras, 3½d. to 4d. per lb.

WOOL.—English wool continues in good request, at full quotations. Foreign and colonial wools are dull, but the public sales of the latter have commenced somewhat briskly.

HEMP AND FLAX.—Hemp is very dull, and cheaper. Petersburg clean, £37 to £38 per ton. There is a moderate inquiry for flax, on former terms.

INDIGO.—This article is again dearer, with an active inquiry. The public sales are progressing briskly.

METALS.—Scotch pig iron has sold at 75s. to 75s. 6d. Rails at the works are quoted at 28 5s. to 28 10s.; common bars, £8 to £8 5s.; and Staffordshire, £10 10s. to £10s. 15s. per ton. Tin is in good request. Banca, 131s.; Straits, 129s. to 130s.; British, 129s. to 130s.; refined, 134s. to 135s. Tin plates are active. I. C. coke, 30s. to 31s.; I. X. ditto, 35s. 6d. to 36s. per box. Lead is heavy. British pig, £25 10s. to £25 15s.; Spanish, £24 10s. to £25 per ton. Copper and steel are quite as dear as last week. Spelter moves off slowly, at £23 10s. to £24 per ton on the spot. Zinc, £31 to £32 per ton.

HOPS.—The demand for all kinds of hops rules steady, and prices are well supported. Mid and East Kent pockets, £3 15s. to £6 10s.; Wad of Kent, £3 10s. to £5; Sussex, £3 5s. to £4 15s. per cwt.

POTATOES.—The supplies are good, and the trade is heavy, at from £2 15s. to £5 per ton.

OILS.—Lined oil is very dull, at 31s. to 35s. per cwt. on the spot. All other oils move off slowly, and the quotations are not supported. Turpentine is unaltered in value.

TALLOW.—We have a very dull sale for all kinds of tallow, the prices of which are again easier. S.P.C. on the spot, 58s.; and for the last three months, 52s. per cwt. Rough fat, 3s. per 8lbs. The stock of tallow is now 23,472 casks, against 39,065 casks in 1855; 38,157 in 1854; 40,348 in 1853; and 54,211 in 1852.

COALS.—Holywell, 17s.; Wylam, 15s.; Heaton, 15s.; Hedley, 15s.; Russell's Hetton, 16s. 9d.; South Hetton, 17s. 9d.; Heugh Hall, 15s. 9d.; Kelloe, 17s.; Tees, 18s. per ton.

LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

BANKRUPTS.—GEORGE WATKINS, Cowley Road, Uxbridge, builder—WILLIAM SHENK, Royal Exchange Buildings, Cornhill, merchant—JAMES LEA, Dartford, Kent, tailor—C. A. CAMINADA and Co., Broad Street Buildings, bill brokers—JOSIAH COULTHURST GASKELL and THOMAS GARSTANG, Blackburn, machine makers—SAMUEL MARY GILBERT, milliner—DAVID WILLIAMS, Aberystwyth, Mowmouth, builder—WILLIAM SHERRATT, Crewe, Cheshire, innkeeper—FREDERICK WILLIAM EMERSON, Terrefie Chemical Works, near Penzance, Cornwall, manufacturing chemist—ASA BRADBURY, Oldham, cotton spinner—HENRY FREDERICK BUDGE, Manchester, fustian manufacturer—WILLIAM OATES, Ashton-under-Lyne, innkeeper.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—THOMAS WATSON, Glasgow, wright—JACOB CHRISTIANSEN and Co., Leith, merchants—WILLIAM BAIRD, Glasgow, corn merchant.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

BANKRUPTS.—WILLIAM SCHENK, Royal Exchange Buildings, Cornhill, City, merchant—THOMAS EVANS, St. James's Street, Westminster, tailor—RICHARD MINIFIE, Honiton, Devon, baker—CHARLES PHILLIPS EDNEY and ALFRED RAINS, Liverpool, wholesale druggists—MORTON ANDREW EDWARDS, Dean Street, Soho, sculptor—DAVID DAVIS, Merthyr Tydfil, general-shop keeper—WILLIAM BOWMAN, Sloane Street, Chelsea, tailor—HENRY BARNES, Winchester, wine and spirit merchant—GEORGE TILLEY, St. George's Wharf, Old St. Pancras Road, dust contractor—WILLIAM JAMES, Nayland, Suffolk, builder.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—CHARLES DUFF CAMPBELL and JAMES HENDERSON, Edinburgh, Glaziers—WILLIAM WYLIE and ROBERT WYLIE, Glasgow, block builders and spirit dealers.

THE SPRING DRESSES.—Patterns Post-free.

Finest Swiss Cambrics, 3s. 6d. the Full Dress.
Finest Jaconets 5s. 0d. do.
Finest Organdies 7s. 6d. do.
Finest Silk and Wool do.
Fabrics 10s. 6d. do.
Rich French Silks £1 1s. 6d. do.
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